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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 2015

Everyone here at The GEM wishes all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, December 31.

Shale gas drill testing is off in Llantrithyd

AFTER LAND BOUGHT BY A VILLAGER!

by PHILIP IRWIN

VILLAGERS in Llantrithyd are celebrating victory in their campaign to stop a Welsh company drilling to test for shale gas in a nearby field.

However, the victory has come (literally) at a price, because their aim was achieved when the field was bought by a villager who is opposed to drilling.

The previous owners of the field had given Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd permission for exploratory drilling, and planning permission was granted by the Vale Council in 2013.

This prompted a two-and-a-half year campaign by locals and the wider community.

Sian-Elin Jones, chair of Llantrithyd Residents' Association, said: "We are absolutely delighted, it's a huge relief.

"We've worked hard for this and we deserve to celebrate, but our work is not over yet. This is just one field and if fracking gets the go-ahead in Wales, then it could be back again one day. We'll carry on pushing for a full fracking ban in Wales."

She said that it was the third such success claimed by the anti-fracking movement in Wales this year. Two other proposed drilling sites, one in Llantrisant and a second site in the Vale, have also had permission to drill withdrawn by the landowners, despite planning permission being in place.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Local school PTA wins sponsorship!

ABOVE: Robert Calcaterra, Mrs Richards of Y Bont Faen with pupils and Sharon Stephens of HRT.

THE Y Bont Faen Primary School PTA is being sponsored for the second year running by local estate agents Herbert R Thomas.

Over the past year, HRT has supported events at the school, including a photography masterclass with year-five pupils, with the winners receiving a £25 gift card for the Odeon cinema in Bridgend.

Funds donated were used by the PTA to purchase new sports equipment. During this school year, the money will be used to help fund the Cornerstones project, which is part of Y Bont Faen's 'Reach for the Stars' initiative to encourage all pupils to reach their full potential.

HRT will be attending many of the school's events this year – such as the Christmas concert, summer fair and summer ball – and will also again run a digital photography masterclass for years 3-6.

Robert Calcaterra, director at HRT, said: "As a Cowbridge-based business, we feel it is important to support the community and we are fortunate to be in a position to do this."

Julia Adams, headteacher of Y Bont Faen, said: "The staff and pupils are very grateful for the sponsorship money as it has enabled the school to purchase additional resources to enhance and support the learning opportunities delivered in Y Bont Faen."

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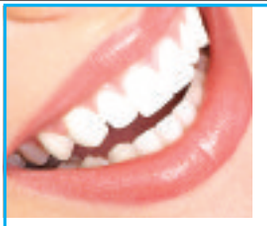
Change of name for practice

THE doctors and staff of the Cowbridge and Western Vale Group Practice have decided to change its name.

From January 1, it will be known as Western Vale Family Practice.

The practice has almost 10,000 patients and three surgeries in the western Vale at Cowbridge Health Centre, Llantwit Major Clinic and The Surgery, St Athan.

A spokeswoman said: "Dr Dominic McGovern and his partners feel that the new name is truly representative of the ethos of the practice and their patients."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Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

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IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Get behind the Daffodil for Marie Curie'

AS a Marie Curie nurse, I have the privilege of caring for people living with a terminal illness in their own homes across south west Wales, as well as supporting their loved ones at a very difficult time.

I see first-hand how vital this care and support is in allowing families to make the most of the time they have together.

To enable me and other nurses to continue providing this care, I would like to ask your readers to volunteer for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal in February and March.

The appeal is the charity's biggest annual fundraising campaign, which has been running for 30 years and has raised more than £73 million since 1986.

Just a small amount of time volunteering to collect donations for the appeal will help Marie Curie nurses to continue to provide care and support for people living with a terminal illness, so they can spend more time with their loved ones.

All readers need to do is spend a couple of hours encouraging people to *'Get behind the Daffodil'*, by giving a donation and wearing a daffodil pin.

To join the local team of volunteers this February and March, just contact Marie Curie in south west Wales by phoning 01554 759 071, emailing westwalesfundraising@mariecurie.org.uk or signing up online at mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/daffodil-appeal/next-appeal

Thank you for your support,
Andrea Rees,
Marie Curie nurse

Funding crisis: Care homes versus prisons?

I NOTE with interest an article printed in the December 10 issue of The GEM, stating 'Funding crisis threatens care homes in Vale'.

I don't hold a PhD in fiscal studies, but I do know that it costs between £375 to £575 per week to care for a vulnerable adult in a care home setting – whether a subsidy by state is given or not – or self-funding by the individual's assets, such as house and savings etc, are taken by the state to cover care costs.

I have done a little research via Google and have found that it costs £63,000 to imprison a person and then on average a further £40,000-plus, per annum to keep them (inmates) warm, fed and watered, along with Sky TV, games room, library (ours in the community are being closed) heating, lighting, Wi-fi etc.

So the average cost of being incarcerated is £833-plus per week.

Should councils and local government be looking in the same direction as me to make the savings?

Or, better still, put our elderly vulnerable adults in the new-build prisons and the inmates in state-funded nursing homes?

Oops, silly me, I have yet to Google 'Human Rights' search.
Steve Spear,
Rhoose.

Syria bombing: A CATCH-22 DILEMMA...

THE outcome of the vote over the bombing of Syria at Westminster means we have a satisfied Prime Minister who was terrified and desperate not to lose a second vote over military action.

Buoyed up by an excessively-biased, right wing media, obsessed with continually castigating Jeremy Corbyn for his 'pacifist' opinions, and the so-called split in the Labour Party – it would appear to be entirely possible for some Tories to share these pacifist views, provided the outcome of the voting was never in doubt!

Not one newspaper had the grace to point out the dilemma facing any opposition leader with a catch-22 situation of free/whip voting.

Ten hours or so of debate resulted in only two speeches being worthy of acclaim – that is, according to press reports on the Thursday – one by John Baron, a Conservative backbencher who voted against bombing – and one by Hilary Benn, Labour Shadow cabinet member, voting for.

Very little attention was given to the PM's statement, "*to vote against bombing were the actions of terrorist sympathisers*".

Following the Commons' vote, we were informed by the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Fallon, that the might of the RAF (two Tornado and four Typhoon jets) would be complementing the 65-plus Russian, and many more American and French aircraft in the region – thus enhancing Great Britain's standing in the world!

We will be active in bombing oil wells in Syria and Iraq. Are we to assume then that this has not been happening over the past four years?

It is worth pointing out that with all the hype lavished on Westminster, less interest was devoted to the by-election in Oldham, where, for the first time since 2010, the Labour Party increased its share of the vote, to the detriment of other parties.

As we are now in the Advent season of peace and goodwill to all, and as a Christian country we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth, it would appear that someone else with the initials JC must be doing something right.
CM James,
Barry

Tools with a Mission appeal

ON behalf of Tools With A Mission (UK) and organisations around the world that we have been able to help during 2015, volunteers at the TWAM Cymru unit in Penarth would like to thank all those from Cardiff and the Vale who have donated tools, haberdashery and other equipment.

We would also like to thank those who donated money and/or invited us to speak to their clubs and societies.

The donations have enabled the unit to forward some eight tonnes of cleaned and refurbished equipment to the UK headquarters in Ipswich during 2015, who have themselves been able to dispatch 20 x 20ft containers, predominantly to sub-Saharan Africa.

If you have any tools you no longer need (perhaps you'll get some new ones for Christmas), please consider donating the unwanted ones to us – a list of what we need can be found at www.twam.co.uk/toolss.html.

We can be contacted at: twamcymru@gmail.com or by telephone on 07814 573696, or 07763 123683.
Andy Bowdler,
Dinas Powys.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us **@gem_news**

Light up the town!

AT last, some of the shopkeepers in Cowbridge have found their Christmas spirit and discarded those dreadful artificial Christmas trees and put up beautiful, real ones instead. What a difference they make to the shops concerned.

Come on, the rest of you, it's time to follow suit! Oh, and please bring back the pretty coloured lights, instead of those dreary white ones.
Elaine Jones, Cowbridge.

Animal charity thanks shoppers

THANK you generous shoppers of Cowbridge. We collected £461 on Friday, December 4 for dog rescue.

Thank you for all your interest – we met lovely people and many thanks to all the volunteers and dogs.

A VERY, VERY huge thank-you to Mr Davies and family (who work with Catherine Howell) for their generous donation. To June and Rhys Morgan – thank you for always counting the proceeds and topping up the denominations to full bags.

Thanks to The Bear and The Quarter Penny for my cappuccinos!

Wishing everyone peace and prosperity - Merry Christmas.
Cheryl Morgan-Veck,
Friends Of Many Tears Animal Rescue

'Only a Welsh Assembly will listen to Wales'

IN response to Mr David Bevan's recent letter about his new 'Abolish the Welsh Assembly' party, I hope no-one supports his cause. It is because of the Assembly that we have several benefits the English, under the Tory Government, have lost and will keep losing.

Just one example, is our Welsh NHS – still a *national* health service – as opposed to the creeping privatisation that the English NHS is undergoing.

If we ever fall for the call from this new party and give up our Welsh Assembly, we will regret it for the rest of our days.

Far from abolishing the Welsh Assembly, we must demand even more powers – for only a Welsh Government can truly serve Wales and feel obliged to listen to Welsh voices – not Westminister.
Marc Delaney, Barry

FLOODING: IS COWBRIDGE NEXT IN LINE?

IN the light of the serious flooding and associated power cuts and even deaths around the country, I am extremely concerned that Cowbridge could be next.

The developer CEG and the landowner Mr John Homfray have applied for up to 500 houses on Darren Farm land, an already waterlogged area (as The GEM photos showed clearly around Llanfrynach Church in March).

These extra 1,400-plus people will produce an enormous amount of water and sewerage effluent – and where will it all go? Cowbridge is situated in a basin and cannot sustain such huge increases.

I have heard others expressing their concern too and we would all like to know how this matter is to be addressed by our local council members.
Mrs M Prosser,
Cowbridge.

'THANK YOU'

I WISH to thank the two ladies who helped me in Morrison's on Tuesday, November 17, when I had a vertigo attack.

One very kindly stayed with me, while the other found the on-duty First Aider manager (Mark) when a wheelchair was found for me. They were so very helpful. Thank you.
Mrs Shirley Payne,
Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
17 Thur	10.14	9.2	22.41	8.8
18 Fri	11.09	8.8	23.39	8.6
19 Sat			12.12	8.6
20 Sun	00.48	8.5	13.13	8.6
21 Mon	01.59	8.6	14.33	8.7
22 Tues	03.11	8.8	15.41	9.0
23 Wed	04.14	9.2	16.43	9.4
24 Thur	05.11	9.6	17.36	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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MAYOR WELCOMES MPCT PERSONNEL TO THE LATEST CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

IMAGES by MIKE WILCOCK

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Coun David Morris and his consort Lorraine Pointon-Bell were delighted to welcome members of the Military Preparation College (MPCT). The Military Learning Trust is one of David's chosen charities for this year.

The valued volunteers of Cowbridge museum.

ABOVE: The Mayor's charity mornings held at Cowbridge Town Hall continue to be very popular and Mike Wilcock was on hand to capture images of the latest one.

Go to the **Cowbridge GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

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School concert

ON December 9 the school hall at Llangan was full to capacity, with mums, dads and grandparents, for the Christmas carol concert.

It really is amazing how pupils, from tiny tots to older children, perform with no apparent nervousness; this is due to the enthusiasm of the teaching staff.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is ***NANCY DAVIDGE***
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

It was lovely meeting former headteacher Mary Noyes, who is always a welcome guest at the school and altogether it was an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

Today (December 17) there will be a special assembly; more on this at a later date.

Church news

ST Canna's, Llangan: the latest Sunday service was very well attended by parishioners from Llangan and further afield.

This year's special service at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on December 13 was very well attended, with children taking an active part with poems and music.

Following the service, everyone made their way to Treoes village hall for the Christmas tea and games.

There will be a special Christmas service at Saron Chapel on Christmas Eve at 6pm; everyone is assured of a warm Christmas welcome!

Young At Heart

ALL the club members enjoyed their visit to Porthcawl on Thursday, December 10, for their Christmas lunch.

A big thank you to Anne, Marje, Jean and Barbara for their work in keeping the club functional.

Once again, another year has passed which has seen so many tragic events. We can only hope love will prevail in the hearts of the men and women of evil.

I will continue with my itsy bitsy news in 2016.

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'NFU MUTUAL & THE VALE' CHARITY COFFEE MORNING FOR MACMILLAN AND TENOVUS

Photographs by MIKE WILCOCK

NFU Mutual Bridgend & The Vale Agency recently held a Christmas coffee morning in aid of Macmillan and Tenovus.

Agents David Harris and Julian Kelly welcomed NFU customers, friends and also people who work in and around Bridgend Business Centre. Nearly £400 was raised from donations for the delicious cakes provided, cards sold and raffle won. Pam Harris the organiser would like to thank all those who supported the coffee morning, especially all those who come regularly to the coffee mornings in the agency.

Abi Reader.

Scott Bell, standing, with Dai Harris.

Onwards to 2016!

LLANTRISANT and District Probus Club, following a very successful quarter last year with record attendances and several new members, goes into 2016 in good heart!

We continue to meet in Pontyclun Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30am to 12 noon. On January 19, Ann Holdam will speak on 'The Dragon Savers' (Credit Union); and on February 16 – David Salter will give a talk on postcards Part 2.

March 15 – will be the annual general meeting when the chairman will give his report, officers are appointed, and the accounts presented.

New members are always welcome, we are a friendly club with fellowship high on the agenda!

BT

Fashion show and festive sugarcraft masterclass

MEMBERS of Penllyn and District WI have had a busy few months – Starting on November 14 when they held a very successful craft fayre in the village hall.

Items of craft, jewellery and cookery were on sale and visitors were able to sample tea and cakes.

On the following Thursday, Penllyn hosted a fashion show for over 100 members of the other WIs in their link area. During the evening the personal shopping team from John Lewis showed a variety of outfits and guests then enjoyed refreshments and a chance to catch up with old friends.

At their December meeting, Penllyn members were given a masterclass in making sugarcraft decorations for their Christmas cakes, by Mrs Sheila Brice and they began their Christmas celebrations with a delicious festive supper.

This was followed on December 4 by the link Carol service, which was held at the church of St John The Evangelist in the village.

The branch is now looking forward to the new year's programme, which begins on January 5 with a demonstration of reflexology.

Jane Exell

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THE NATIVITY STORY WITH CAROLS BY TORCHLIGHT WAS 'A MOVING EVENT'

Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

THE churches of Cowbridge joined together last Friday night to bring alive the Nativity story.

The stage was Old Hall Gardens, with the audience travelling between scenes on their journey to the stable where the baby Jesus had just been born to the excited new parents, Mary and Joseph.

The story began by the library, where the tired and anxious couple walked along the town wall and down into Bethlehem, where there was no room for them.

We were as shocked as the Shepherds when an angel suddenly appeared amongst them to tell them the great news of a newborn king.

Herod welcomed the three wise men to his palace, in the Physic garden, because he wanted to know what was going on.

When his curiosity changed to anger, we all quickly moved on to the stable, where everybody gathered to see the new child for themselves.

There were nearly 180 of us in all and we sang carols by torchlight as we went, accompanied by a splendid band.

Many of us enjoy Nativities played by cute small children. In contrast, the walking Nativity played by adults in the everyday setting of Old Hall Gardens, was unexpectedly moving and left both young and old feeling very Christmassy.

BW

CAROLS IN THE CASTLE

ON Tuesday, December 22, Churches Together in Cowbridge will organise a walk from the cattle market (leaving at 6.15pm) across the fields to St Quentin's Castle for carols and readings, to celebrate the season.

All are welcome, bring a light and wear walking shoes. Those with a disability can meet up at the castle about 6.50pm, but everyone else is encouraged to be a part of the journey.

'Santa was so excited his trousers fell down!'

AGE CONNECTS Good Neighbours Scheme for Llantwit, Cowbridge and the western Vale gave Christmas a warm welcome with a very jolly party on Monday, December 7 at the Llantonian Hall, when about 50 older people enjoyed an excellent tea and entertainment.

Entertainment was first provided by our own Susan Doyle accompanied by Maurice Hoskins on guitar. Then, much-loved local group 'Half Tidy', who had us all laughing and singing with them.

Father Christmas then helped Tricia Lancaster, Llantwit's Mayor, to distribute hampers to those lucky enough to win but Father Christmas was so excited his trousers fell down!

Every year, the Christmas party is made possible by our loyal, hardworking volunteers helped this year by two town councillors who gave generously of their time.

As the Good Neighbours coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody for a wonderful party.

Also to remind others that we are here to help and for those who could volunteer to befriend a lonely older person, please get in touch on 01446 795549.

BRIDGET PALMER
(Scheme coordinator)

CHURCHES COMBINE FOR VERY 'MESSY' AFTERNOON IN PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY!

Photographs by
IAN DIXON

AS part of the 'Messy Church' programme, local ecumenical communities gathered in Peterston-super-Ely's church and community hall recently.

They included parishioners from St Peter's Church, Croes-y-Parc Chapel and St Francis Roman Catholic Church, and they organised a 'messy advent' event.

The youngsters were entertained with games, painting and craft activities, followed by a short service.

The afternoon conmcludedwith a delicious pasta, lemonade and biscuit tea.

Fr Martyn Davies, Pastor Tom Pridham, and Rev John.

Festive treasure hunt – *and learning not to put turkey fat down the sink!*

Eco club proud of their mathematical skills.

Exploring in the willow tunnel.

LAST week, St Nicholas C/W Primary School Eco-Club was the first school to participate in the festive Eco-Trail at Cog Moors water treatment plant in Dinas Powys.

Mrs Mottram, educational co-ordinator, demonstrated to the children the effects of flooding caused by natural phenomena and man-made problems (very topical considering the recent devastation caused by storm Desmond).

This was followed by a forest adventure where the children had to locate and measure the width of all the oak trees, followed by calculating their ages.

Learning that trees which had grown for 140 years could be chopped down in a matter of seconds shocked many of the children.

Then, during a festive treasure hunt through the maze of forest paths, the children learned about the importance of recycling and especially NOT putting turkey fat down the sink this Christmas, as it clogs the drains.

Finally, the children proceeded to make bird feeders out of natural resources and place them around the forest to ensure local birds would not go hungry this Christmas.

Written by the Eco-Club

Mr Downey, a teacher on the trip, reported: "It was a very enjoyable and productive morning's work, learning about sustainable development for the environment and the animals who live in it, while also covering a range of curriculum areas such as science, maths and geography."

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Chick Knit campaign visits local pupils to pass on tips!

FOLLOWING Llancarfan's appeal for donations of wool to help with their Velindre 'Chick Knit', avid knitter and Velindre supporter Mrs Joyce Evans contacted the school to offer her help!

Pupils were delighted to visit Mrs Evans to talk about her years of knitting for Velindre Hospital and to pick up helpful tips! Mrs Evans not only donated bags of wool to the school but a large batch of her latest creations, Chocolate Filled Knitted Snowmen!

These were sold by members of the school council, so not only did the children enjoy a lovely Christmas treat, but they were able to support this good cause during the season of goodwill!

The staff and children of Llancarfan Primary School wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CH

School painting winner lit up the village!

AN enjoyable evening of carol singing and celebration saw the start of the Christmas festivities in the village of Llancarfan on Sunday, December 6.

The largest ever gathering to attend the annual lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree was kicked off by guest of honour Reuben Hooley, winner of Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the magnificent lights that lit up the evening sky.

The singing was led by Jo, Sarah, Hayley and Jane; hearty renditions of favourite Christmas tunes rang throughout the village and Claire Williams kept us all warm with mulled wine, mince pies and treats for the children.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening – Max, Matt, Rich and John for putting up the tree and to Gruff for delivering the leaflets. Thanks must go to the Thomas family for allowing us to use their equipment, Sue and John and most importantly, to the Archbold family who are providing the power to the lights again this year. All funds raised on the evening were donated to the Cerys Potter Foundation.

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Pupils' festive partnership in store

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg and the Cowbridge Co-op have created a "perfect Christmas partnership", by helping each other with their respective Christmas activities.

The Co-op donated selection box chocolates for Ysgol Iolo's Christmas fair and in return the children got busy painting Christmas pictures which have been used to decorated their High Street store.

Pictured are (left to right): Jo Cairns, Luke Cecil and Dale Tanner with young artists from Ysgol Iolo.

Gas drill test off

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Against the backdrop of intense negotiation in Paris between 196 countries to forge an agreement to tackle climate change, local campaigners are puzzled by the UK Government's pro-fracking and seemingly anti-renewables stance.

"It just doesn't add up," said Keith Ross of Frack-Free Wales. "When you include carbon emissions from the whole production cycle of shale gas and include fugitive methane emissions from gas production wells, peer-reviewed studies show that fracking can end up with a similar carbon footprint to coal.'

He said that, with David Cameron on record as 'going all out for shale' and George Osborne recently announcing in the Autumn Statement a fund of up to £1 billion for communities affected by fracking, that stance looks unlikely to change.

The Welsh Government, however, has struck a more precautionary note, including the announcement of a moratorium on planning applications involving fracking.

Mr Ross continued: "Whilst the moratorium on fracking in Wales is a welcome statement of intent from the Welsh Government, it does not provide any greater protection.

"Rejection of an application for fracking by the Minister would still be subject to appeal and could be overturned by a planning inspector.

"We would ask Ministers to take note of the growing resistance to this industry in communities across Wales, and ask them to work with us towards implementing a full and permanent ban on Unconventional Gas Development in Wales."

Cowbridge museum needs volunteers

AMONG its many attractions, Cowbridge has a unique and popular museum located inside the old prison cells, within a town hall building which spans several centuries.

Nearly 80 visitors, including a number from France, came to see the museum on Saturday, December 5 – its most recent opening day.

The museum contains exhibits that reflect the archaeology, social and industrial history of the town in times of peace and war and is run by volunteers.

More volunteers interested in the history of the town and who enjoy meeting people, are urgently needed to welcome visitors and to help care for the museum collection.

More information about the museum will shortly be available on a new website. If you would like to help, go along to the museum between 10am and 4pm on Saturday, January 9, or contact David Pierce on 01446 773248, email pierce316@btinternet.com; or Steve Harkett on 07833 431730, email boyobach@live.com.

Go to the **Cowbridge GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk

'Buy local at Christmas' SHOPPERS ARE URGED

PRODUCERS in the Vale are calling on shoppers to support their local markets and retailers this Christmas.

From turkey and all the trimmings to festive favourites like mince pies and mulled wine, the complete Christmas is just on the doorstep. There are a whole host of producers who sell locally through a network of Farmers' Markets, farm shops, delis and also online.

Myfanwy Edwards of Vale Farmers Markets, said: "Our market has been established for 15 years. We have a wide range of fantastic produce from meat and vegetables to bread, cheese, beers, eggs and chocolates. Everything you would want for a great local Christmas. The producers come from all over south Wales. Come and support them and buy local this Christmas."

As well as the Vale Farmers Market, there are a number of other events and fayres happening this season where you can pick up some great local produce:

Saturday, December 19, 10am-4pm; Sully Christmas Market, Sully Sports & Social Club.

Saturday, December 19, 10am-4pm; Llantwit Major Christmas Market - Town Centre.

Saturday, December 19, 9am-12.30pm; Vale Farmers Market - Penarth, Westbourne School.

Sunday, December 20, 10am-4pm; Sully Christmas Market, Sully Sports & Social Club.

Tuesday, December 22, 9.30am-12.30pm; Cowbridge Country Market - Cowbridge Lesser Hall.

Wednesday, December 23, 9am-12pm; Vale Farmers Market - Cowbridge, Arthur Johns.

What's in your bin?

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

How to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE your waste this Christmas

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

- The Vale's recycling kerbside collection service can take your food waste, from your turkey carcass to your veg peelings, it can all be turned to compost at a facility local to the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Your Christmas wrapping paper can be recycled in your blue bag or green box, all we ask is that you remove any traces of sticky tape. We cannot recycle any glittery/shiny metallic paper.
- Christmas cards can be placed in your blue bag or green box. Please remove any sticky tape, bows, glitter or tinsel.
- Our partners at Love Food Hate Waste have some great tips and recipes this Christmas: www.lovefoodhate waste.com/content/christmas-cracker

Christmas Tree Recycling Collection in January

Christmas Trees will be collected from the kerb side on householders' weekly recycling collection day from **Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January.** Only real trees will be collected, please strip off all decorations and put out for collection by 7.00am.

Changes to your Collecton Day from March 2016

As from **7 March 2016** some household collection days will change as part of a route planning exercise being undertaken by the Council to ensure its waste collection fleet operates as efficiently as possible. Letters to residents notifying them of any changes will be distributed in **February 2016** with online calendars updated in the New Year.

Please see changes to Christmas Collection dates

Normal Day:		Will now be:
Friday 25 December	-	Sunday 27 December
Monday 28 December	-	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	-	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	-	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	-	Saturday 2 January 2016
Friday 1 January 2016	-	Sunday 3 January 2016

recycle for the Vale
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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Call banks to account by switching to rivals!

Vale MP
ALUN CAIRNS
reports to our GEM readers

WHEN did you last move your bank account? As the old saying goes – you are, statistically speaking, more likely to get divorced than move your money to another bank.

This subject has become all the more relevant in light of the recent closure of NatWest in Llantwit Major, and the announcement from Barclays, confirming plans to close their branch in the town.

I immediately met with senior management of Barclays to express my serious concerns. I have organised a non-political meeting with local civic leaders tomorrow in Llantonian Hall, to discuss the wider issues and the impact on Llantwit Major.

Local councillors and Welsh Assembly members have been invited, in the expectation of working together to do all we can to ensure that all avenues have been explored by Barclays.

I am extremely disappointed that Barclays determined that Llantwit Major no longer fits into their plans and expressed my feelings in the most forthright manner. However, we must work positively to achieve a helpful outcome. That is why I have called the meeting tomorrow to discuss a way forward that the town can get behind.

The switching of bank accounts has never been easier; the result is that more of us are going through the process than ever before. It is remarkably simple: I know many people locally who have recently moved bank accounts and I have yet to hear about a bad experience. *If you have found the process difficult, please let me know – or why not consider moving your accounts to a bank that is servicing Llantwit Major and the Vale?*

The Current Account Switching Service was set up to specifically provide a hassle-free service for a customer to switch bank accounts in less than a week.

The switching of accounts is often associated with thoughts of digging out account numbers, old standing orders and numerous direct debit agreements. However, the process is all handled automatically – you simply contact your branch, tell them the date you want to move your account, and that is it.

The service is free to use, and the entire change-over is dealt with by your new bank.

If you have thought about switching, but never got round to it – and in light of any possible changes to your local services – head to ***www.simplerworld.co.uk.***

The switching process is identical, whichever bank you use, and once you have indicated the bank you would like to join – sit back and relax while the new bank does the heavy lifting.

I would encourage everyone with concerns about local banking services to try the service – and please let me know your feedback on how the process went. I will put anonymous comments on my Facebook page, in an effort to encourage further switchers, and I hope this can send a positive message.

Currently, only around 3 per cent of the population switch their bank accounts. That is why I am encouraging local residents to support all the businesses in Llantwit Major –and reward their loyalty with our patronage.

This is my final column before Christmas; The GEM has yet again done a superb job in delivering the news that matters to us all in 2015.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone, including friends and family visiting the Vale over the festive period, a very happy Christmas and New Year.

MP's PRAISE FOR THE POSTIES

ALUN CAIRNS visited Royal Mail's Llandow delivery office this week to pass on Christmas wishes and encouragement to postmen and women at their busiest time of the year.

The Vale MP was shown around the office by manager, Kevin Beames, and was introduced to postmen and women who are working hard, sorting and delivering mail in the Vale in the run-up to Christmas.

"There is a huge amount of effort and dedication that goes into delivering a first class Christmas at Royal Mail's busiest time of year. It was great to meet the team in Llandow," Mr Cairns said.

"Our postal workers do such an important job at this time of year and I would like to thank them for their efforts and wish them all the best over the busy festive period."

The last recommended posting dates for Christmas are: Second Class – December 19; First Class – December 21; Special Delivery – December 23.

Alun Cairns with Llandow delivery office staff.

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Unit 19, Ty Verlon Ind est, Barry, CF63 2BE. Tel: 01446 701230.

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TUES 29th 10am-5.00pm WED 30th 10am-5.00pm
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SAT 2nd 10.00am-5.00pm SUN 3rd 10.30-5.00pm
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Cardiff Airport's interim boss is now confirmed as new managing director

CARDIFF Airport has announced the appointment of Debra Barber as managing director and chief operating officer, responsible for directing and controlling operations and optimising a sustainable Airport for Wales.

Debra Barber pictured outside the terminal building.

In this role, Ms Barber will lead the airport team in managing the business and will oversee the development and delivery of the airport's business plan.

Ms Barber has been in post as interim managing director since September 2014 having joined Cardiff Airport as operations director in May 2012, following a successful career with the Royal Air Force.

Having joined the military in 1984, she spent the first 10 years working in and around RAF airfields as an air traffic controller before retiring as Group Captain and Air Traffic Management Force Commander, responsible for all RAF air traffic units in the UK and around the world after 28 years' service.

During her time as interim managing director ,the airport has seen a significant growth in passenger numbers, a new airline base, new services and successful delivery of major events, plus further improvements to the terminal and airfield operations.

Commenting on her appointment, Debra Barber said: "I am extremely pleased to continue leading the airport during this exciting stage. We have achieved a great amount already but recognise there is still much work to be done to ensure we have an airport we can all be proud of.

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Thanking everyone for their continued support

ROTARY AND INNER WHEEL BRING SOME FESTIVE CHEER

Rotarians, Inner Wheel members and friends with Orchard House residents.

THE Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Barry visited Orchard House residential home on Tuesday, December 8, to give the residents some festive cheer and Rotary Club president Paul Halstead introduced everyone to carols, readings, and poems.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing and other carols were interspersed with scripture readings by Inner Wheel president Tina Evans and Rotary president Paul Halstead. Inner Wheel members Carys Howe and Beth Longley also made interesting contributions.

Residents were particularly appreciative of teenagers Katie Brownjohn and her friend Miriam, who played their flutes.

A special guest helper was nine-year-old Bailey Sloan, who offered chocolates to the residents during the evening's entertainment! At the end of the evening Rotary president Paul thanked all attending and particularly Rotarian Meirion Evans for organising the event and playing the piano. He then wished everyone a Happy Christmas!

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook on Thursdays (6.30pm). For further information, speak to secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or look online at www.ribi.org. **JO**

'Don't feel alone at Christmas'

AS Samaritans Cymru gears up for the festive season, the charity is reminding people that no-one needs to feel alone this Christmas.

"f you are struggling to cope with life, the pressure to have a good time can magnify your challenges and increase your sense of isolation, even with friends and family around you," says executive director for Wales, Sarah Stone.

"This is why Samaritans' volunteers in Wales will be there around the clock for anyone who feels they need to talk, in confidence, about whatever's getting to them – on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, and every other day of the year.

"Someone contacts Samaritans every six seconds. Problems don't go away just because it's Christmas, so if you're finding it hard to look forward to the festive season, we're here for you.

" If it's too difficult to open up to friends or family, or you feel you have no-one who will listen, talk to us. We'll keep whatever you say safe, we won't judge and we'll help you find a way through."

Gemma is a Samaritans' volunteer in Bridgend who has answered hundreds of calls for help from people finding Christmas and New Year an ordeal:

"It may be your first Christmas without your children because of a separation. Or you may be bereaved, or struggling with redundancy, debt, your health, relationships or family issues.

"It's OK to not be having a good time, and you don't have to put on a brave face for us. You can talk to us, by phone, email, or face-to-face in our branch.

"However difficult your thoughts and feelings are, knowing that we care and that we will listen can make all the difference," Gemma added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cowbridge Country Market

THE market wishes all its friends and supporters a happy Christmas.

We are open on Friday and Tuesday, December 18 and 22 for you to stock up on last minute delights. A full range of produce and craft items will be available on both days in the Lesser Hall, 9.30am – 11.30am. Empty jam jars are welcome, ahead of our marmalade making in January.

Boxing Day swim

WHITMORE Bay Voluntary Lifeguards' annual Boxing Day swim meets at the Voluntary Lifeguard Station, Western Shelter, Barry Island, entering the water at 10am.

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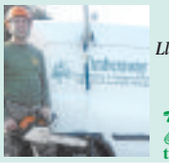

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*Buy Now Pay Nothing Until 2017 applies to finance contracts taken at the time of order which are subject to status and availability. If you choose this finance package, you will pay nothing until 1 year after your windows and doors are fitted. You can then choose to pay the full amount at any time during the 12 months, plus a £20 exit fee, without accruing any interest. If you do not settle the balance in full by the required date then you will automatically go onto our 120 month payment option with an interest rate of 19.9%. **Worked finance example: 5 triple glazed windows, any size, in white (maximum window size 2.4m x 1.1m) fitted for a total cost of £3,995.00 Pay nothing for a year and then either pay the full amount, plus the £20 exit fee, or pay £85.08 per month for 120 months. charge for credit £6311.80, total amount payable £10,316.80.** Other finance options are available, please ask for details. The G2S Group act as an intermediary and only offer products from Barclays Partner Finance. Barclays Partner Finance is a trading name of Clydesdale Financial Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Barclays bank Plc. Clydesdale Financial Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Financial Services Register Number: 311751). Registered in England, registered number 2901725. Registered office: 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP. †The £10 M&S voucher is limited to the first 25 callers, is restricted to one voucher per household, and will only be posted to the named person at the address of operation. The G2S Group reserve the right to withdraw any offer without prior notification. E&OE - Dec15

Out & About with The GEM

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TY HAFAN LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D909.

- **£2,000:** 144745.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £3,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 198635, 822865, 233885, 474955, 644562, 796200, 105640, 205787, 109540, 622896, 180755, 617948, 687683, 850689, 629840, 619605, 905448, 962147, 1166.
- **£5:** 193568, 799756, 169131, 751842, 386099, 959938, 261435, 410368, 616669, 179773, 422201, 278558, 894631, 211627, 466723, 895564, 545651, 311066, 784782, 696343, 186849, 536022, 113730, 884631, 796366, 893418, 523652, 787872, 477008, 244327, 350258, 362119, 838636, 467925, 481713, 444953, 114414, 305317, 562463, 429726, 778191, 761425, 516436, 267945, 404086, 437152, 950466, 327057, 638915, 110877, 516494, 702069, 122395, 445616, 578328, 328, 503, 284, 1651.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Come dancing with Steve and Lynne!

STRICTLY Come Dancing with Steve and Lynne – undefeated Welsh Open Latin American champions and Wales' representatives in Belgium, New Zealand, Italy and Spain – and have a ball!

Steve and Lynne have been teaching in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry for 12 years and are "loving every minute".

They are IDTA professionally-qualified teachers; their classes are great fun, very vibrant and as well as burning up loads of calories – losing weight and getting fit - everyone learns a new skill.

Come along and give it a go – bring your friends as well – our classes are tailor-made for beginners (and for people with two left feet!) and we have pupils of all ages.

All former pupils are most welcome and there's no need to book. Just pay as you go. Nothing to pay in advance – and no registration fee.

If you prefer to book your place – you can do it online on our website – and then your place is secured – www.salsachacha.com

Alternatively, just come along on the night, 10 minutes before the class starts to register.

Check the advertisement on this page for our new classes starting in January.

So it's up to you – drag yourself away from the telly – get some exercise, keep fit and join in with us all.

See you in January!

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MOYA'S PUPILS EXCEL IN BALLET EXAMINATIONS

THE Moya Vahey School of Russian classical ballet, based in BIJOU, Cowbridge, recently had ballet examinations with pupils from Penarth, Porthcawl, Pencoed, Llantwit Major and the Vale participating.

The results were excellent with 12 dancers achieving Honours and eight Honours with Distinction.

Four 16-year-olds, Alice Teague, Rachel Bent, Isaac St John Griffiths and Llewelyn Brown, all had over 90 marks for the advanced exam.

The examiner, Andrew Stevens from Ljubljana, Slovenia was very impressed with the high standard of work and invited Llewelyn to dance the Prince in his production of *Cinderella*.

Alice Teague, Rachel Bent and Llewelyn Brown (pictured) are through to the final of the Dance World Cup 2016, to be held in Jersey next June.

"We are very proud of them and wish them very good luck," said Moya.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pantomime in Cowbridge

FAME Factory Spotlight will be performing the pantomine *Beauty and the Beast* on Friday, December 18 at Cowbridge town hall at 6.30pm.

Tickets are £5 each, available from the town hall office or David Barnes Drycleaning on Cowbridge High Street.

Ward councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills and Court Wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan will hold their regular advice surgery on Saturday, December 19 from 10am – 11am in the small community room of Barry Library, King Square. No appointment necessary.

Penny Farthing's £100,000 facelift

RIGHT: Tracy Griffiths, manager at the Penny Farthing.

FORMERLY Farthings, the newly re-branded Penny Farthing cafe and wine bar, which was bought by family-run hospitality group Town & Country 18 months ago, has been given a £100,000 facelift.

It has invested in a new wine bar, cake fridge, flooring, chairs and fixtures and fittings to update its look as it expands its offering.

Previously only open in the daytime, to coincide with its new extensive wine list, which includes over 50 wines from all over the world, Penny Farthing has extended its opening hours and is now open Thursday to Saturday until 11pm.

Alongside a new daytime menu, a special menu of small and sharing plates has been created for the evening.

The 80-cover café and wine bar has taken on an additional five staff to support its growth plans and has put together a calendar of events in the lead up to Christmas, which will be developed further in 2016.

Christmas services

BARRY'S Methodist church services will take place as follows this Christmas: Cadoxton Christingle, December 18 at 3.15pm. On December 20, at 6pm carols.

Crossway (Court Road/Crossways Street) on December 20 at 3.30pm, a service of readings, carols and messy church Christingle; on Christmas Day at 10am.

St David's Winston Road/Colcot Road December 20 at 6pm a service of lessons and carols by candlelight; on Christmas Eve, service with Holy Communion at 11pm, and on Christmas Day at 9.45am. The Gathering Place, St Athan on December 20 at 10.30am a Christingle; Christmas Day service at 10am.

Barry Uniting Church (The Waterfront) December 20 at 10.30am and 6pm, carol services; also at BUC a Christingle at 4pm on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day at 10am.

For more details, contact the Vale of Glamorgan Methodist circuit on 01446 406262.

FAMILIES in Llantrisant recently enjoyed a magical breakfast where they were joined by popular characters Elsa, Anna and Olaf at Leekes (above).

Festivities began as the characters broke the ice, performing songs inspired from the well-known film and after being invited to dress up as their favourite character, a lucky recipient received a prize for the best costume.

Peter Mundell, store manager at Leekes Llantrisant said: "It's the first time that we've hosted an event of this kind and we're delighted that so many families turned up to enjoy breakfast with Elsa, Anna and Olaf.

"The children really enjoyed the interaction with the characters, along with the singing and various competitions.

"It also provided the perfect opportunity for their parents to finish those last minute Christmas preparations with our three for two mix and match on a superb selection of gifts as well as our great range of decorations and kitchen accessories."

BOOK REVIEWS

Book for railway buffs

RAILWAY buffs will enjoy Geoff and Ian Body's *The Galloping Sausage and Other Train Curiosities* (Published by The History Press at £14.99).

The formative years of Britain's railway network produced a host of ideas, activities and characters, quite a few which now seem not only highly unusual, but sometimes little short of ridiculous.

Weird schemes and designs, extravagant behaviour, reckless competition and larger than life characters all featured in the genuine struggle of the railway system to evolve.

This book, by ex-railwaymen Geoff and Ian Body, captures more than 150 entertaining snippets, stories, and strange and unusual facts from an ample supply of railway curiosities.

Geoff Body worked in the railway industry from 1945 to 1976 and has been writing on the subject of railways ever since.

His other titles include *Railway Oddities* and *Signal Box Coming Up, Sir!*

Ian Body is Geoff's son and is also an ex-railwayman. He joined forces with his father to produce *The Galloping Sausage*.

Children's book debut

ANGELA FISH is a writer who specialises in intergenerational communication, women's writing and Welsh writing in English.

She gained her M.Phil in literature at the University of Glamorgan in 1995, and was a principal lecturer there until 2000.

Her publications include non-fiction, fiction, short stories and poetry, often with Welsh and feminist themes.

Ben and the Spider Gate (published in hardback by Book Guild Publishing at £12.99) is her first book for children.

The 'hero' Ben loves chatting to his wise Gran, playing computer games with his best friend Jess, and helping his dad to train his clever dog, Scoot.

Best of all, though, he likes playing ball in his garden with Scoot and it is the garden and local woods where this enchanting story unfolds.

Illustrated with some beautiful black and white drawings, it is the kind of book you will enjoy reading to your young children or grandchildren.

BRIAN LEE

CHRISTMAS FETE

TY DEWI SANT Residential Home in Myrtle Close, Penarth, CF64 3NQ is holding a Christmas fete this Saturday, December 19, at 2pm.

Stalls include bric-a-brac, books, handmade gifts, cakes and a raffle.

Trip By The Sea with Jolie-Pitt and Pitt is stylish but dull...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

NEITHER Brad Pitt nor Angelina Jolie were scraping around in their careers when they got together in 2005 after meeting on the set of action comedy *Mr and Mrs Smith*.

Since then their individual stock has risen considerably, the former hitting a run of critical and box office successes (including an Oscar nomination for *Moneyball*), while the latter has balanced her acting career with a move behind the camera which yielded the lauded *Unbroken*.

Now the couple have teamed up, with Jolie not only behind the camera, but also writing the script, in *By The Sea*. Set in France during the mid-1970s, Vanessa (Jolie), a former dancer, and her husband Roland (Pitt), an American writer, travel the country together.

They seem to be growing apart, but when they reach a quiet, seaside town they find themselves reconnecting as they meet the locals...

The inherent thrill of seeing a real-life couple on the screen doesn't always bring the fireworks you would hope for (just look at Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise in *Eyes Wide Shut* for example); so while placing the coupling of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie-Pitt together holds some voyeuristic thrill (is this what they're like when they argue?), it's pretty much the only thrill in a caustic yet all too cumbersome story of a marriage unravelling.

Neither Roland nor Vanessa are particularly easy to like characters – he is a writer who's struggling to overcome writer's block and a penchant for alcohol, while she is seemingly constantly walking under a dark cloud, popping pills and passing the time away.

The trip they embark upon is more professional than personal – Roland is hoping to have his creativity sparked by the area – but as he struggles to put pen to paper, the troubles in their marriage bubble to the surface even more, their lack of communication and relationship painfully evident.

It isn't helped that the pair find themselves in the shadow of a newly-married couple in the room next door, their blooming love and passion a stark counterpoint to Roland and Vanessa's icy relationship.

While the performances are all more than competent, the story meanders lazily; it doesn't ever feel like it's kicking up a gear, even as the two couples become friendly and the reasons for the apathy between Roland and Vanessa slowly come into view, keeping you intrigued until the very end, where everything comes to a head in an emotional explosion.

Both Pitt and Jolie-Pitt are unsurprisingly strong, enlivening the stuttering material while Melanie Laurent and Melivil Poupaud as the seemingly picture-perfect counterpoint to them also deliver good performances.

As a director, Jolie-Pitt shows yet more evidence that she has some serious burgeoning talent behind the camera, giving the film a classy and elegant tone, riffing on the visual sophistication of European cinema and making the most of the gorgeous, scenic location, the languid direction fitting nicely.

Yet the screenplay is the disappointing element, Pitt-Jolie's script indulging in the characters and their journey a little too much without ever really offering any great substance. There is the intriguing element of the pair snooping on their next door neighbours through a spy-hole but it's all too pedestrian and one-note, and ultimately slightly predictable.

You never feel wholly engaged by either story or characters, and while *By The Sea* is gorgeous to look at (the leads alone ensuring that, let alone the beautiful location), it's an altogether dull affair.

VERDICT – A cumbersome exercise in style, *By The Sea* feels a little too self-indulgent and slow-paced to ever truly capture your attention. The performances are sound, the direction is stylish but lazily paced, but the story feels overly predictable and moves in familiar ways. It looks great, but there's little more to it than that. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: ***A Good Year* (2006), *Rabbit Hole* (2010).**

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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'A kind and gentle man who showed compassion for others'

A CLOSE friend of the family penned this tribute to Tony Leadbitter of Ystradowen, whose death was reported in The GEM last week.

I first met Tony in 1990 some four years after he had retired and at a time when he was playing a very active role in the family's varied interests.

Tony was born in 1927 in Islington, London, the son of Walter and Margaret Leadbitter. Life was hard at that time, his father, a pilot with the Royal Flying Corps, died when he was just three years old leaving his mother to bring Tony up alone.

At the age of 12, Tony became a Second World War evacuee, something he very rarely talked about but when he did, it was clear how hard it was for parents who were forced to put their children on a train with little more than a few scant belongings, a gas mask and a label around their necks.

Tony was one of the lucky ones and when his mother moved out of London to High Wycombe, he was able to return home. Childhood in war time was difficult but it was apparent at this age that his future career in electronics was going to become a lifetime passion.

Various experiments with audio technology drove his mother to despair on many occasions and culminated in a rather large explosion in the garden shed.

Tony took up a scholarship to High Wycombe Grammar School, which led on to further education at High Wycombe College of Technology and Hatfield Polytechnic. In 1945, he joined the Post Office, where he held a variety of positions including working on both automatic and manual telephone exchange systems, the TV licence detector vans and Home Office communication issues at both Fylindale and Bletchley Park.

Tony was the first to admit that the varied roles he had within the Post Office provided the grounding for his electronics career.

In 1957, Tony joined Belling and Lee Ltd, where he rose up the ranks to the post of Divisional Manager. Tony often talked about his involvement in the development of 'screen rooms' for hospitals, security and computer purposes, but was equally proud of his involvement in the construction of the St Hilary communication mast, as well as his achievements in developing aerial technology.

In 1973, a career move resulted in a move to Wales as Managing Director of Wolsey, a Division of AB Electronics. Many of you may recall having a 'Colour King' aerial – this was developed by Tony while he was with AB Electronics.

Tony was an Associate Member of the Institute of Electronic and Radio Engineers, served as President of the Society of Cable Television Engineers from 1969–1971 and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Confederation of Aerial Industries.

His job and position within the industry took him on numerous trade missions around the world, something he really enjoyed and resulted in some amusing tales, including the incident where everybody in his carriage on the train back from Paris moved to a different carriage because of a very pungent smell. This was in fact a rather ripe Brie cheese which in the heat of the train became somewhat riper!

The love of electronics extended annually to the purchase of the latest kitchen gadget for wife Pat as a Christmas present – something that did not always go down well as Tony never used the gadget and Pat, having technophobia, regarded such things as a hindrance rather than a help.

Aside from electronics, Tony's great passion was photography, and he very rarely went anywhere without his cameras. He was a very active member and past chairman of the Vale Camera Club and was an inspiration to many, always encouraging others including his family to take pictures.

There was nothing he liked more than to sit and look at photos and many a visitor to the house would be shown his portfolio of pictures.

Tony was also given the title of official family videographer and loved filming both Pat and Fiona with the ponies at many of the shows.

Tony undertook a number of judging appointments and got to meet many like minded enthusiasts at photo clubs around Wales. Photography provided a great interest during Tony's retirement leading to highly-regarded work for The GEM newspaper, and most days would see him out and about with his camera, capturing events around the Vale.

Pat and Tony had this year celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and the celebrations spent with the family were something that Tony enjoyed enormously.

Family played a very important part in Tony's life and not only was he very supportive of the family's varied interests, he was also immensely proud of what had been achieved.

He took great pleasure in seeing the success of Pat and Fiona's Thornberry Pony Stud and the enjoyment that came with it: the friends from around the world, the shows and judging appointments undertaken by Fiona, and the sheer excitement of new foals and plans for the future.

He was equally supportive of son Simon and his various enterprises, and was always there on taxi duty when required, be it for setting up Simon's mobile disco, delivering bouncy castles to children's parties or accompanying Simon on numerous trips to France to help with the running of his holiday cottages.

Being a very practical person, he was always on hand to help with mechanical issues and loved the bicycle shop and was thrilled when Simon restored a BSA Scout car.

Tony was a kind and gentle man who showed great compassion for others. Many of you may not know that Tony had struggled for some long time with failing eyesight and although he never complained, for those close to him it was obvious how distressing it was that his beloved cameras sat unused as his reduced vision made it impossible to continue his lifelong hobby.

Sisters have a haircut for children's charity

The locks of hair will be sent to The Little Princess Trust.

THREE sisters from Llandow have had their hair shorn for charity – and donated their locks to the Little Princess Trust which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair following treatment for cancer and other illnesses.

On Wednesday, December 9, staff at The Hair Business in Cowbridge volunteered to cut the hair of Jasmine Bacon-Peniche and her sisters Naomi and Nicole. A minimum of 7" of hair is needed to make the wigs, and the girls have also been raising funds for the charity through a fundraising webpage.

The donations and messages of support have been extremely generous and, while the girls had hoped to raise £150 for the charity, they in fact managed to raise over £400 in a week!

The fundraising webpage will remain open until January 9, anyone wishing to donate can visit *mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/garybacon1*.

Jasmine, Naomi and Nicole thank Leigharne, James and Beth at The Hair Business and everyone who has kindly donated to this effort.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

These young scribes 'nab' an exclusive!

ON December 9 and 10, the foundation phase children (nursery, reception, year-1 and year-2) and staff at All Saints Primary , Barry, performed a spectacular Nativity performance entitled 'The Bethlehem Star' to huge crowds!

Before the start of each performance, our school eCadets spoke to the audience to remind them about eSafety and their responsibility when taking and sharing photos of the performance on-line.

The play, directed by Miss Kirsty Mackintosh, starts with the staff of 'The Star' newspaper desperately looking for a 'scoop'. The Editor encourages his reporters to get out there and find a story worth telling... not just a donkey or some figs or some slippery oil thieves!

The play followed these reporters as they at first miss the biggest scoop, as they simply think that it is just another ordinary baby being born...

Babies are born all the time, nothing special about Mary's – if only they knew!

The play moved through various plot twists with all the children performing songs and excellent one-liners that had the crowds in hoots of laughter.

The performances concludes with Mary and Joseph find a special place for the birth of their baby and the reporters get the greatest story of all time!

The play was enjoyed by everyone who attended and the 'Choir of Angels' performed a show-stopping song that brought the house down.

Well done to everyone involved and a huge thank you to all our families for always supporting our school.

Nadolig Llawen.

AW

St Donat's Chorale signs off in the capital

ST DONAT'S CHORALE (*pictured, left, during rehearsals*), have been invited to give their final concert of the year at St Edward's Church in Roath, Cardiff, on Saturday (December 19) at 11am.

They will be performing at the church Christmas fayre with a mixture of songs and carols, both new and old, which everyone will be able to sing along with.

Rehearsals will recommence on January 4, at Atlantic College in St Donat's at 7.30pm, when anybody who enjoys singing will be made very welcome; no auditions necessary.

The choir will be rehearsing for their next performance on March 19 when, accompanied by professional soloists and orchestra, they will be singing *The St John's Passion* at All Saints Church, Barry.

'PAY FOR A DAY OF HOSPICE CARE'

INDIVIDUALS and businesses are being encouraged to help support local people living with a terminal illness by paying for 24 hours of hospice care on a day of their choice.

The Pay for a Day fundraising initiative allows donors to pay for the £6,660 cost of running the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice in Penarth for a single day.

In exchange, individuals or companies can pay a visit to the hospice to see how their donation is used to support local people, and their families, while a certificate of support bearing the donor's name will also be on display in the hospice reception area.

Individuals and companies supporting the Pay for a Day initiative will also see their names and stories featured on the charity's website and social media channels.

The Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice cares for more than 1,200 people, and their families and loved ones, every year. Among those to have witnessed the expert care and support offered at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice is Richard Gladwin, whose mother Joan Patricia Gladwin was cared for at the hospice in 2005 after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Richard said: "The care that my mother received at the end of her life at the Marie Curie hospice made a terrible time bearable, not just for my mother, but my whole family.

"From the moment she arrived, things got better for us. The expert palliative care of the doctors brought physical relief, the compassion and skill of the nursing staff brought both physical and mental comfort, and the work of the volunteers raised our spirits. I owe them a debt that I can never repay.

"As special as my experience was, to me it is not unique – it happens to many, many families and Marie Curie is there for them day in, day out. I support the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice so that others can get the help that my mother did and have a better quality of life for as long as possible. I urge others to do the same by supporting Pay for a Day."

Georgina Burke, Community Fundraiser at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, said: "The Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, is here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. Some of the people we care for and support stay at the hospice, while others come in for the day to attend our clinics or support sessions.

"We are able to do this thanks to our fantastic supporters, including the individuals and organisations that choose to Pay for a Day. There are lots of ways to get involved: You could make a one-off donation. Get your staff involved in fundraising. Or raise the money through a sponsored cycle, run or other personal challenge."

To find out more about how you can Pay for a Day and support the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice, please contact Georgina Burke on 02920 426068 or email Georgina.burke@mariecurie.org.uk.

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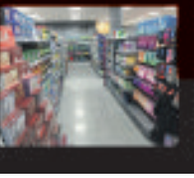

Unit 3, Ty'r Gyfraith, Thompson Street, Barry Vale Of Glamorgan CF63 4JL

(01446) 734491

Grants are available for business start-ups

THE Inspiring Vale Bursary is a local funding source (Waterloo Foundation) set up to provide bursaries for individuals and groups of young people who live in the Vale and are aged 30, or under intending to start a new business or community enterprise in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Grants of up to £3,000 can be applied for, which must be match-funded by 20 per cent of personal funds.

The purpose of the bursary is to promote conditions which will help young people to implement their ideas, and take them forward to start up within the county.

This can include providing advice and expert support to develop a business idea, providing the necessary equipment or resources to start a business, helping with business location costs.

To apply for the Bursary:

- *Applicants have to be an individual or a group all aged 30 years old or under on application.*
- *Applicants have to live in the Vale of Glamorgan or have lived here previously for 5 consecutive years.*
- *Applicants must want to set up their business in the Vale of Glamorgan*
- *The business venture must be a spare-time or part-time or full-time activity, permanent or temporary.*
- *The bursary has to be essential in order to start the business.*
- *There has to be no other source of money available to fund the equipment or services they have applied for.*
- *The business the applicants intend to establish has to be new and not taking a business over as well as being independent of any other business.*
- *The business has to be a start-up business pre commercial trading.*
- *Start-up costs must not exceed £25,000.*

The bursary winners.

Assembly praise for local young entrepreneurs

A GROUP of successful young entrepreneurs from the Vale were welcomed to the National Assembly's Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay last week and congratulated on their success by ministers.

Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance, hosted the event to celebrate the achievements of those supported by this year's Inspiring the Vale bursaries scheme. She was joined by Julie James AM, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology.

Fern Coslett, 26, from Penarth, has now been able to set up Elm Apparel, a clothing company that celebrates the fashion culture of the LGBT community.

She said: "They've allowed a young person the opportunity to create a job, to be inspired and to create an innovative business. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity they've given me to create a business that I've dreamed about."

Chloe Francis, 28, from St Brides Major, has put her bursary towards setting up Cobbles Kitchen & Deli in Ogmore-by-Sea. She said: "It's wonderful knowing that I am being supported and encouraged to pursue a lifelong dream. It's not just about the financial side of things but knowing others believe in your idea."

Lewis McGregor, 24, from Barry, applied for the bursary to set up his company Skybreaker, providing professional lighting design. He said: "The bursary will allow me to step forward on a path that was otherwise closed off for me."

Funded by the Waterloo Foundation and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the bursary scheme provides funding of up to £3,000 for young people aged 16-30 who want to start a new business or social enterprise in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Young entrepreneurs in the Vale who would like to know more about the scheme can find information online at www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk.

Stroll through capital

EIGHT Penarth and District Ramblers joined William for a 12-mile urban walk which would encompass some of the historical features of the capital city of Wales.

They set off across the edge of Central Square in Cardiff, which at present is cordoned off because of building work, and made their way to the Golate, a narrow lane that connects Westgate Street with St Mary Street. Back in medieval times it was probably a dirt track, ditch or streambed and over the years has been called Porth Llongau, Ship's Gate, Frog Lane, Gollygate and Gullygate.

Next they arrived at Cardiff Castle, which served as a Norman fortress before being passed into the de Clare and Despenser families, withstood the challenge of Owain Glyndwr and during the English Civil War was owned by William Herbert, before being passed by marriage into the famous Bute family.

From Canal Park they entered Mount Stuart Square, named after Lord Mountstuart heir to the Bute estate where over 60 listed buildings erected at the end of the 19th century, including the Coal Exchange and Custom House once stood as a memorial to the industrial and commercial growth of Cardiff, when it became the busiest and richest port with the surrounding area becoming known as the infamous Tiger Bay.

From Cardiff Bay, they passed through Hamadryad Park and joined the River Taff, crossing Clarence Road Bridge onto the Taff Embankment and entered Grangetown going past the Hindu Temple to Sophia Gardens and across Blackweir Bridge into Bute Park alongside the swollen River Taff. Leafy built-up areas led them onwards to Cathays Cemetery for a brief stop at the grave of 'Peerless' Jim Driscoll (1880-1925) who rose from a very humble and poor background to become a legendary featherweight champion, both here and in America.

Lunch was enjoyed in Roath Park, overlooking the lake with its memorial to Captain Scott, who set off from Roath Dock in the Terra Nova on his fateful expedition. Originally, the ship's figurehead was presented to the City of Cardiff to be displayed in the park, but this was moved to the National Museum of Wales so it could be preserved and instead, a lighthouse was erected in 1915 after the lake had been drained, so the foundations could be laid and the clock tower was added in 1918.

The walkers followed the Roath Brook and tramped Victorian terraced streets back to the Civic Centre, home to some beautiful buildings and paused at the stunning Wales National War Memorial designed by J Ninian Comper.

It honours those who lost their lives in the Great War and consists of a circular colonnade which contains bronze figures of a soldier, sailor and an airman each raising a wreath to an elevated central figure of a winged messenger who holds a sword aloft, before making their way back to their start through the city centre.

On December 19, meet at 9am at Cogan for an eight-mile moderate Christmas walk taking in Llansannor; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On December 20, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for a seven-mile moderate walk taking in the Mellte and Nedd valleys; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On December 22, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a mid-week 8.5-mile tramp at Marcross and Monknash; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Follow the group on www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

If you have an idea for a business but don't know where to start, Creative Rural Communities has a **bursary scheme for young people** that may be able to help.

Os ydych yn berson ifanc a bod gennych syniad am fusnes ond na wyddoch lle i ddechrau, efallai y gall cynllun bwrsari Cymunedau Gwledig Creadigol eich helpu.

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You can apply for up to £3,000 to set up your own business*

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Applicants must:

- Be aged 30 or under on application
- Have an idea for a business or community enterprise and need support to implement it
- Apply individually or as a group
- Live in the Vale of Glamorgan (or have lived here for 5 years previously)
- Want to set up a full, part time or spare time business in the Vale

Cewch ymgeisio am hyd at £3,000 i sefydlu eich busnes eich hunan*

Cewch drialu syniad am fusnes newydd a chael profiad o redeg eich busnes eich hunan trwy weithio ar eich pen eich hunan, gyda grŵp neu gyda'r gymuned gyfan

Mae'n rhaid i ymgeiswyr:

- Fod yn 30 oed neu lai
- Fod â syniad am fusnes neu fenter gymunedol a bod amynt angen cefnogaeth i'w weithredu
- Ymgeisio'n unigol neu mewn grŵp
- Fyw ym Mro Morgannwg neu fod wedi byw yma am 5 mlynedd cynt
- Fod yn awyddus i sefydlu busnes yn y Fro, llawn amser, rhan amser neu yn eu hamser hamdden

Find out more about Inspiring the Vale Bursaries by calling 01446 704637

I ddarganfod mwy gelwch heddiw a gweithdwch y 01446 704637 breuddwyd

* you need at least 20% match funding

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thewaterloofoundation creative RURAL COMMUNITIES

or by emailing /neu drwy e-bostio: create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit our web site at /ewch i'n gwefan ar: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk

Glamorgan GEM Season's Greetings

FESTIVE SERVICES

THE Parish of Penarth and Llandough is preparing for a variety of services over the Christmas period, including the ever-popular crib service, carols by candlelight and a service of lessons and carols.

Lessons and carols at Holy Nativity Church, Cogan, Sunday, December 20, 4.30pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Crib service at St Augustine's, December 24, 4pm families and children especially welcome (noise is not a problem!).

Carols by Candlelight at St Augustine's, December 24 at 11pm followed by Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

Communion service for Christmas at Llandough, – 8pm at St Dochdwy's.

Family Communion on Christmas Day, 10am at Holy Nativity Church, Cogan – children are welcome to bring their toys.

New rector, Rev Mark Jones, says he is looking forward to his first Christmas in Penarth.

More information at: www.parishofpenarthandllandough.co.uk or phone the parish office on 02920 708722.

Christmas is a time to celebrate birth of Jesus

...AND REFLECT ON THE IMPORTANT THINGS OF LIFE

*'Universal message of '**peace**', and the timeless themes that remain as relevant today as they were in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago'...*

IT is at Christmastime that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, with his universal message of 'peace', and timeless themes that remain as relevant today as they were in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

In a turbulent modern world too often beset by hatred and strife, *'Blessed is the peacemaker'* and *'goodwill to all men'* are simple, humanitarian ideals.

As such, they have met the test of time – and should surely be shared by all men of goodwill, whatever their background or beliefs,

The seasonal break allows us a unique opportunity to spend precious extra time with loved ones and to reflect on the things that truly matter in life, the treasured values and ties that bind families (and the community as a whole) together.

It is also a time for renewal, and to share and extend wider greetings – as a year that was sadly distorted by graphic headlines recording human disasters and bitter global conflicts, slides away into the history books.

Now 2016 waits its turn in the wings to bring a more positive message of hope for a better year to come.

Finally, The GEM would like to take the opportunity to add our voice to the seasonal messages on this page.

We heartily wish all of our readers and advertisers a very happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Councillor Frederick Johnson

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council extends Seasons Greetings to all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Mae'r Cynghorydd Frederick Johnson

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr yl i holl drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Llantwit Major Town Council

*Councillor Mrs Patricia Lancaster, Town Mayor and all Town Councillors wish Llantwit Major residents and visitors **a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2016***

The Llantwit Major Conservative Branch

would like to wish local residents

a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Thanks to all who supported the party in 2015 & we look forward to your continuing support in the year ahead.

If you need support on any issue, please call us on **01446 744126**

Andrew RT Davies AM

I would like to wish constituents across the Vale of Glamorgan a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

www.AndrewRTDavies.com

If I can help you in 2016 please do not hesitate to contact me on 01446 775039 or AndrewRT.Davies@Assembly.Wales

Cllr. Richard Bertin
Independent

Wishes all residents
A Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

For news & updates:
www.richardbertin.com
Regular surgeries held
rjbertin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
01446 736227

Llantwit First Independent Vale Councillors

Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

If you're interested in joining our group, or just supporting our aims, call 01446 793669

MERRY CHRISTMAS to The Party People
from D.J. John (JB's Disco)
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BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

The Town Mayor of Barry, Councillor Emma Pritchard and members of the Town Council

send Greetings to the Townspeople of Barry together with sincere wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity for Christmas

Maer y Dref y Barri, Y Cynghorydd Emma Pritchard ac Aelodau'r Cyngor Tref y Barri

Anfon Cyfarchion I bobl y dref y Barri, ynghyd a dymuniadau diffuant am Iechyd, Hapusrwydd a Ffyniant ar gyfer y Nadolig

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FESTIVE FUN WITH 'THE INSATIABLE, INFLATABLE CANDYLION'

LOOKING for a Christmas show with a twist this year? National Theatre Wales has teamed up with Super Furry Animals frontman Gruff Rhys to create *The Insatiable, Inflatable Candylion*, a festive event that is pitched somewhere between a theatre show and a live music gig, inspired by Gruff's seminal album *Candylion* and performed in Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium.

Aberdare-born Tim Price has written the show, which will feature a mix of new songs and old favourites, all written by Gruff. And there's a cracking cast of actor/musicians, including Gruff himself, Sweet Baboo, Lisa Jen Brown (lead singer of 9Bach), Remy Beasley, Matthew Bulgo, Dyfan Dwyfor, Natasha Lewis, Dyfrig Morris, Kliph Scurlock and Emma Daman Thomas.

Audiences aged from four to 104 will be invited to meet a host of characters including Caruin, Cheffyl, Meringutan, Sledgehog, Pale Droid and all the inhabitants of Pixel Valley, where there's a whiff of revolution in the air...

This is an opportunity to see some of the best writing, singing and acting talent Wales has to offer in a unique production by the country's English language national theatre company, performed in the heart of the capital.

***The Insatiable, Inflatable Candylion* will be performed at the SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff, from December 16 to January 2.**

To book your tickets, call 029 2037 1689, or visit nationaltheatrewales.org.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year from

Jane Hutt

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

Jane.hutt@assembly.wales
www.janehutt.wales
(01446) 740981

Regular surgeries held throughout the Vale

THE VALE 150 YEARS AGO – TIMES HAVE CHANGED

by Brian Keitch

THE 1860s in the Vale was a world away from our festive season nowadays – but some things were the same.

With all the wind and rain (like this autumn) – the weather was something of a Godsend years ago – because energy was provided by the elements. Bro Morgannwg was well served by windmills.

Being near to the sea meant that grains could be ground and wool could be woven on the doorstep. Wool clothed local folk and the grains provided bread for us and fodder for livestock – and yes – roughly ground malted barley was the key ingredient in the production of ale/beer (and whisky).

Diverting watercourses went back hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Practically every parish in the Vale had a mill. Being on a fairly flat plateau of Glamorgan and with predominantly south-westerly winds led to a proliferation of windmills – especially in those communities where the water supply was changeable.

Many mills were still very much in 'action' 150 years ago. Windmills were almost abundant around our area (only Ynys Mon/Anglesey in Wales was similar, because the island was pretty flat).

From east to west – Sully had two windmills (the foundations of one is in Cog Road – the other still stands at Hayes Farm though alas – like all Vale windmills – without sails). St y Nyll tower still stands (agonisingly just outside the National Folk Museum of Wales, St Fagan's) as does that at Llantrisant.

There were three in Llantwit Major (two can still be found); Marcross had one, as did Wick (two). Another two can be found at Candleston and Nottage. These were built of stone, but some were constructed of wood. Vanished mills are still evidenced by farms names such as Windmill Farm (Boverton and City), field names such as Cae'r felin/Millfield or road names such as Windmill Lane.

However, the advent of the Industrial Revolution put paid to our mills by the 1930s. From the 1860s onwards, basic products came by rail. No longer would the woollen mills in Llanbleddian and Leckwith produce cloth for the locals. Nor the mills with flour.

But the train also brought beer... Many public houses in the Bro traditionally brewed their own 'home brew'. David Jones of Wallington, born in Llanbleddian, recalls his native village in the 1860s – when the village boasted two inns: "The General Picton and the King's Head thus – Our host John o' the Picton emulates his neighbour Shon y Gwaith as to who shall have the best tap and the competition for that honour causes each of them to add an extra bushel of malt in his brewing, to gratify the village topers.

"The thing is probably finished up with a little fighting, at least it is a portion of the standing annual gossip of the village to enquire after the event, 'Has there been any fighting?'

"The General Picton is by far the best house of the two. Close of the Church, it derives all the benefit that bell-ringing, marriages and burials can bring it as well as being the place of meeting of all parish vestries.

"But Shon y Gwaith is the oldest and down in the village must be considered the village ale-house. Shon y Gwaith name is quite a household word at Llanbleddian and popular consent has conferred his name upon the little "public" instead of the name it bears on the sign.

"If you wanted the house you might ask 20 people in the village for its whereabouts, not one of whom could at a first thought tell you anything of the King's Head, but ask for 'John the Weavers' and the youngest child that plays at the roadside will tell you Johnny is a village character."

Meanwhile, Cowbridge could claim to have over 20 inns and pubs with some three breweries to supply them. With so many drinking houses on offer, the locals had something of a reputation – as a ditty from Iolo Morganwg puts it: "For Cowbridge hath no sober man, Or none of milk sop thinkers, And no philosophical fools, but great and glorious drinkers".

Aberthin had two breweries – the Old and New; Llantwit Major had the Eagle Brewery; the King's Head and the White Lion frothed up ale for the then or so pubs that used to exist there and nearby Wick had two breweries.

The Penarth Brewery (Lovett's of poem adverts fame) opened in 1856 to quench the thirst of the navvies building the dock. Twenty years later (for a similar reason) Barry had a brewhouse too. Stiles Ales – hence Bridgend Rugby Club's 'Brewery Field' – supplied taverns widely while Pontyclun's Crown Brewery' was later to become the United Clubs' Brewery.

Even Llantriddyd had its own hostelry – 'The Prince' and near the church is the 'Brewer's Well'. Newton Nottage (another Crown Brewery) served customers in nearby Porthcawl.

With the big town breweries like Brain's, Hancock's and Ely emerging in Cardiff, these small enterprises quickly became a memory. One of the last to go was the Cowbridge Brewery. At its peak, the firm produced 100 barrels a week. By the 1950s the output was down to a mere 20 barrels. The last brew was made on May 18, 1955, under supervision of head brewer Gwyn Thomas, who had held the post for 38 years – the Cowbridge Brewery had sold out to Bass & Co.

There is a rather sad tale about one of the local dray horses of years ago recalled by locals: "At this time Dillwyn Morgan of the Bridge Brewery, Cowbridge, owned a fine trotting pony called Daisy, whose coat gleamed like satin and whose speed was a byword in the borough. She was a dray horse who delivered barrels of ale from the brewery to every corner of the Vale.

"Mr Morgan was very proud of Daisy and boasted that his pony could outrace any horse in the locality. He was challenged by a Llysworney farmer who owned a fast hunter. A private race was arranged at Penllyn, wagers were laid and an enthusiastic crowd of supporters turned up at the racecourse to cheer Daisy on. After a thrilling race she flew past the tapes ahead of her rival.

"Such a voltage of triumph surges through the jockey's body that he hadn't noticed that Daisy had begun to tremble. Within second she collapsed on the racecourse and died. The remorse of her owner was so profound that he ordered an inscribed tombstone to be placed over her in the brewery yard – a lasting testimony to her gallant 28 years."

However, after years of the demise of our local ales – a revival is taking place with the establishment of real ale microbreweries (even SA Brain & Co have started their own 'Craft Brewery' in Crawshay Street). Once again we can quaff local ale from the Vale – and maybe the local tradition of the Mari Lwyd will again trot from door to door.

Please drink responsibly. Nadolig Llawen ac wrth gwrs Ieched Da! Happy Christmas and good health!

AM calls for schools to have defibrillators

WELSH Conservative regional AM, Dr Altaf Hussain, has backed calls for all schools to have defibrillators, following the collapse of a 15-year-old boy in Colwyn Bay from a previously undiagnosed heart defect.

Josh Wheelhouse fell ill at Eirias High School in Colwyn Bay, Conwy county, and staff saved him by giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage. The school has since bought a defibrillator.

The South Wales West AM, a former NHS consultant, said: "Emergencies of this nature can happen suddenly and can happen to anyone without warning. It is of particular concern in our schools, as young people in particular can have heart defects that go undetected until there is a critical emergency.

"The fact that staff from the school were able to provide mouth-to-mouth and CPR on the scene just illustrates the importance of first aid training – this no doubt saved the boy's life.

"Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are easy to use and could be the best purchase a school could make. The chance of survival after the heart stops falls by around 10 per cent for every minute that passes without defibrillation, and it can take the emergency services several minutes to arrive.

"Access on site to a defibrillator really could make the difference between life and death, and I totally support Josh Wheelhouse's mother in calling for all schools to have one."

School plans new numeracy lessons

FOLLOWING a successful application to the Arts Council of Wales, Sully Primary has become a lead creative school, enabling it to explore ways of increasing numeracy standards through creative arts.

Musician Andy Everton will help create a bespoke project for pupils in year-four. He will also act as a liaison for the school, arranging for other members of the creative community to share their expertise with the learners.

The school's lead creative schools coordinator, Laura Sheldon, explained: "Being part of this scheme will help us to build the children's numeracy skills in engaging and meaningful ways, and we expect it to have a long-term impact.

"While we can't give too many details about the project at this stage, we're hoping it will involve music and science and that there'll be a big outcome!"

'Wales needs injection of new businesses'

CAN we please have a moratorium on photo-ops? Every elected official will claim they delivered to Cowbridge this vital Post Office.

Can The GEM also recognise with five months remaining, politicians will do and say anything except the real work to fix our broken economy?

Wales' GVA is 71.4 per cent of the rest of the UK, more than half the population earns less than a living wage and our education system has children's stomachs tied in knots preparing for GCSE/A-Level exams.

The Assembly election boils down to whether our children can afford to remain in Wales, or will leave to find good jobs. Instead of death by 1,000 cuts, let's build the top line of Wales, PLC by attracting new businesses.

Every elected official needs to be asked what, specifically, they will do and held to account on why after 16 years of Labour control and nearly six with Westminster's Tories, this has not been done? No more finger pointing, do something!

Denis Campbell,
Ogmore,
Liberal Democrat for The Vale.

Don't forget the lonely

IN about 10 days time, it will be Christmas Day – a time for family gathering and family fun – but let's not forget the old person down the road, who has not had a visit from anyone for many months.

Christmas is a time for family, but also a time for thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves.

David S Ball,
Swansea.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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YOUR GUIDE TO GOOD HEALTH OVER FESTIVE PERIOD

THE first item on this month's agenda is a reminder to get your flu vaccine, if you are one of the people in the at risk group.

This is available free of charge to those people, and it includes the over 65s, young children, pregnant ladies, children or adults with an underlying medical condition, like asthma or heart disease, and people who are likely to come in contact with the virus if they are working in healthcare or are indeed a carer for a vulnerable person.

GP practices are still making appointments for people, so get in touch. Some pharmacies are also now providing flu vaccines.

You can help stop the spread of flu by washing your hands regularly, and sneezing or coughing into a tissue and disposing of it straight away.

Useful information on all aspects of the flu can be found on www.nhs.uk.

As a follow on from Movember, this month it is Decembeard, where men are encouraged to grow a beard and fund raise to support the bowel cancer charities Beating Bowel Cancer and Bowel Cancer UK.

Every 15 minutes, someone is diagnosed with bowel cancer and it is the second biggest cancer killer. The mission is to get 5,000 men to raise £500,000 to help fund a range of vital services that help people with this condition.

It is fantastic that so many people are doing something positive to help. You can see the current leader board on their website www.decembeard.org. It is not too late to register and get that stubble growing! There are some great pictures on the website, including some good ideas for a festive beard.

Ask at your pharmacy or GP practice if you have any concerns about any changes in bowel habits.

The other burning issue in December is always alcohol awareness: men should ideally not drink more than 3-4 units a day and women 2-3 units a day, and there should be a minimum of two alcohol free days a week.

The over-45s are three times more likely to drink every day and 200,000 people go to work every day with a hangover: 10 million people in the UK drink a little too much, despite alcohol being the second biggest risk factor for cancer after smoking.

Advice is always available from your pharmacy about safe alcohol limits and help and support on how to cut intake. Alcohol concern is setting a challenge to adults in Wales to give up alcohol for 31 days in January.

You can sign up at www.dryjanuary.org.uk and encourage work colleagues and friends to join you.

I would also like to remind everyone to drop in a copy of your medication discharge sheet to your pharmacy every time you leave hospital, so that we can double check you get the right medicines. We can photocopy it if you only have one copy that you need to drop to your GP.

And, finally, a reminder to order any repeat medications that you need to see you through Christmas and the New Year now. If you do need to find a pharmacy over the bank holiday, a list of those providing the emergency cover is listed on the your health board's website and many pharmacies post the list on their door.

Have a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year.

KATE THOMAS Pharmacy Proprietor at Sylvia Williams Chemist, Cowbridge

Pupils at work on new film

Ms Neilson, Zak, Kieron, Tyler, Dr Coleman, Edward, Luke, Caleb, Sion and Holly Morgan (Communities First).

A GROUP of year-7 students from Barry Comprehensive School are working with Communities First and The Big Learning Company to make a short film about transition.

The students were fortunate to be able to interview Dr John Coleman OBE, a lecturer at Oxford University who has written many books about teenagers.

The boys were excited to travel to the Watershed, a digital creativity centre in Bristol, to meet Dr Coleman and had many questions to ask him.

The boys were excellent ambassadors for the school and would like to thank Dr Coleman for his help and encouragement and for answering all their questions.

Look out for the completed film in the New Year. **AC**

Young speakers excel in Young Farmers' competition

THE Glamorgan Young Farmers' Club's public speaking day on Sunday, December 6 saw members between the age of 10 and 26 take part in a range of competitions at Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School.

The under-14 reading competition kick-started the day with teams of three reading passages from the book *Wonder,* written by R J Palacio, which was chosen by the judge for the event. Although competitors can familiarise themselves with the story, the actual passages remain unknown until 20 minutes before going on stage. Despite this being the first taste of public speaking for many of the junior members, a high standard was demonstrated throughout. Winners this year were an all-girl team from Bridgend YFC.

Meanwhile, junior public speaking had ten entries of teams made up of three members aged 16 or under taking the role of chairman, guest speaker and vote of thanks. A team from Wick YFC scooped first place while Maendy YFC member, Oliver Popham (14), won best overall speaker of the day.

Intermediate brainstrust was the competition of the day for the under 21 age group. Consisting of a three-person panel plus a chairman, each panel debated three questions on current affairs but it was Bridgend YFC that impressed the judge with their topical discussion earning them the top spot of first place.

Finally, the senior member competition aims to find the most well-rounded and experienced member in the county between the age of 21 and 26. Gower YFC Chairman, Laura Howells, was awarded first place closely followed by Maendy members Tom Rees and Kate Thomas, who received second and third places respectively.

Glamorgan YFC competitions chairman, Annie Evans, congratulated members for their performances and contribution: "Competition days like this one would not be possible without the volunteers who give up their time to train, judge and steward the teams, and for that I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude for their commitment."

Young Farmers Club welcomes young people aged between 10 and 26 to join the diverse organisation (you don't have to be a farmer). To find out more, contact county organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, at Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk or telephone 07779 331839.

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Mild weather means bees are still buzzing

News from the Fonmon Apiary.

WE are well into the final month of the year and the bees are still very active.

There have been wet and windy days when bees have not been out, but it has been mainly the rain that has confined them, not the wind. The varied strength of the wind has had some effect but some of the bees have persisted anyway.

Pollen can be observed on returning foragers. In the garden a quince bush has started to produce flowers, strawberries are in flower and some strawberries are in existence. The lavender is still showing blooms, as are the fuchsias.

Weather reporters are remarking on the unusually mild conditions and the bee activity just confirms this. The winds from the south /south west are responsible for the temperatures we are experiencing, and as long as they remain around 11◦c and above, the bees will exit the hive on foraging expeditions. (Honeybees do not hibernate.)

I have even observed wasps flying around the hives, when in essence they should have been long gone.

The survival of a honeybee colony throughout the winter months is dependent on the stores they have put by. Nectar and pollen are the must-have consumables within the hive, to aid them through what should be an absence of forage.

When temperatures are 9◦c and lower, colony activity will be much reduced. The bees will form a cluster (ball shape); this is winter mode. Any activity at all will be to use their stores and to control the inner temperature of the hive. External foraging trips will cease!

However, winter has not yet kicked in and so I must keep checking on the colonies and looking to their welfare.

How do I check my s u p p o s e d l y overwintering colonies? Well I do not open them up and rummage about inside. I remove the roof (it is heavy) then I go to the back of the hive and using one hand, grip the floor section and gently lift ('hefting it' is the term used here).

It should feel heavy, or at least resist my effort to lift it, providing a rough guide as to its contents (bees plus stores). Doing this to several colonies you can and will notice a difference in weights.

While not being super accurate it is a good indicator and has allowed me to aid the lighter ones while conditions allow, ie bee activity and mild weather.

Will we get lower temperatures? If we do, and the bees adopt their winter survival mode, I am hopeful that each colony is prepared for such an eventuality and will emerge fighting fit in the spring.

I do, of course, have the ever-present varroa mite to consider and controlling its numbers is not yet an exact process. It will survive on the overwintering bees very well.

Come next year ,when the queen bee starts to lay and the colony expands, so too will the mite and bees will die because of its presence.

Having done what I can to aid the colonies with feedstuffs and control of the varroa mite, ever the optimist – next year will surely be better.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Ukulele band entertains local U3A

THE ukulele is a Hawaiian musical instrument, most usually associated in Britain with George Formby, who popularised it in the 1940s and 1950s.

Not many people are aware that the late ex-Beatle George Harrison was a ukulele aficionado; in fact, Sir Paul McCartney frequently includes a 'uke' tribute to his former colleague in his concerts.

Members of Cowbridge U3A were greatly entertained recently by the Porthcawl Ukulele Band (PUB, which could indicate where they often practice). The 11-strong group performed for over an hour.

Their playlist included numbers such as 'Runaround Sue', 'Ain't She Sweet' (covered by The Beatles), George Formby's classic 'Leaning on a Lampost', Lonnie Donegan's 'Putting on the Style' and a compilation of songs by Ray Charles, followed by 'Do You Love Me?', a hit by Brian Poole and the Tremeloes. Do you remember that EMI signed them in preference to The Beatles?

The afternoon's show reached a rousing climax with 'Ring of Fire' and 'Sweet Caroline', with the finale being Tom Jones's 'Delilah', with full audience participation.

There was even time for a joke, based on the notorious difficulty of tuning some ukuleles: "What's the difference between a trampoline and a ukulele? You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline!"

Mulled wine and mince pies provided the perfect finish to an excellent afternoon's pre-Christmas entertainment.

The next meeting has a talk entitled 'The Incredible Life of Dr. William Price', by Dean Powell, at 2pm on January 13 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments).

SPM

WIs end successful year with a carol festival

AS the final event in a magnificent year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the WI in Wales, England and the Channel Islands, the Glamorgan Federation Of Women's Institutes held a carol festival in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on December 7.

Over 500 members and their friends and families attended the concert and were treated to a wonderful selection of Christmas music.

Alun Tregelles Williams conducted the Glamorgan Federation massed choir and Huw Tregelles Williams accompanied them on the organ. There were performances by guest artists Gail Pearson, soprano, Steffan Jones, baritone.

Other guests included Mrs Ann Jones, Federation of Wales chair, Mrs Rhian Connick, head of NFWI Wales and two members of the Carmarthen Federation board of trustees.

Glamorgan Federation chairman, Mrs Carolyn Davies thanked the choir and the artists for making the festival a musical feast and everyone agreed that the concert was a fitting end to the centenary year, and a delightful start to the Christmas festivities.

JE

Peterston residents light up the village green for Christmas

Photographs by IAN DIXON

VILLAGERS at Peterston-super-Ely held their Christmas tree lights ceremony on Saturday, December 5.

The tree is outside the village pub, the Three Horseshoes, and residents surrounded the tree as Father Christmas counted down to the lighting up.

Afterwards, the pub hosted villagers, offering mulled wine and mince pies, while the children queued to see Santa, who had a present for everyone!

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY WI RETURNS – FOLLOWING A BREAK OF FIVE YEARS

Photographs by IAN DIXON

THE newly-formed WI branch in Peterston-super-Ely recently celebrated the WI centenary by hosting a tea party in the church and community hall.

The branch was formed in February 2015, and already has 43 members.

The hall was decorated with 28 wedding dresses, supplied by the members, and there was a celebration cake, a raffle and a sumptuous tea.

Neighbouring WI members from Pendoylan, St Hilary and St Nicholas were invited.

In fact, St Nicholas WI was able to return a trophy that they had looked after when the Peterston branch closed five years ago.

In addition, a banner made by the original group in 1972 took pride of place in front of around 80 guests.

Annual awards evening held at the Cardiff Vale College

All of the award winners on the stage at CAVC's City Centre Campus.

THE Cardiff and Vale College recently held its annual awards evening in the new city centre campus for the first time.

Twenty students, plus the college's partner organisations were recognised for their efforts and contribution to college life.

The event itself took place in the stunning surroundings of the city centre campus Atrium, where NoFit State Circus wowed guests with a daring promenade performance 'silks routine', suspended from the 30 metre high roof of the campus.

The ceremony itself was hosted by broadcaster Jason Mohammad, a former student of the college.

All of the students recognised have progressed on to university courses, the next level at college, or within their careers.

Cardiff and Vale College principal and chief executive Mike James said: "I offer my hearty congratulations to all of our award winners. It has been fantastic to celebrate all of their achievements.

"The annual awards are a great reminder of the impact learning has and the opportunities it can create. It also reminds me what a privilege it is to be working in our exciting college."

The winners included Brian Davies OBE, who won the college's Alumni award. Brian, the chef de mission of Team Wales, was in charge of the Commonwealth Games squad that recorded the highest medal tally for a Welsh team.

Former A Level student, Joel Ringer, won the award for contribution to college life. Joel, from Penarth, was the first captain of the college's extremely successful rugby academy, and also gained the chance to develop his sporting career with rugby giants Toulon.

The Principal's Award for the student who best reflects the college's values through achievement, attitude or participation in extracurricular activities, went to Adam Litchfield. The 22-year-old Level 3 refinishing student from Cardiff, this year won the gold medal at the WorldSkills UK competition, making him the best auto refinishing student in the whole of the UK. He also won the transport services award.

This year the competition was so great between the college's Business and IT students that two winners had to be chosen for this category.

Cardiff IT student Ella Jenkins started college with a very basic level in computing but has gone on to get the best grades possible. She has become a STEM ambassador and has helped plan an IT and networking workshop.

Megan Harrington, also from Cardiff, studies Business at CAVC. A member of the 'Career Ready' programme, Megan has completed an internship at Freshfields, one of the world's biggest law firms, and is set to progress on to a law degree at Greenwich University.

Connor Marks from Barry won the apprenticeship award. He started at CAVC as a full time student, but it didn't work out for him, so he successfully went down the apprenticeship route. Excelling despite recovering from a serious motorbike accident, Connor has since set up his own salon. He funded the start-up himself and now employs his own CAVA apprentice.

Connor said. "I'm just very grateful to be put forward for an award and to be invited to this event in the campus – the building is gorgeous!"

Lewis Richmond, also from Barry, won the Aerospace Award. An exceptional student, Lewis is studying a BSc (Hons) in aircraft engineering and his journal and portfolio have been used as exemplary good practice.

"I'm really happy," he said. "I've always done my work for myself because I wanted to get the best I can from education so I never thought about winning awards. It's a real bonus and it's lovely.

The Creative Industries Award was won by Claudia Fredriksen from Cardiff; an art and design learner, Claudia has used her time at CAVC to come to terms with some real challenges that life has thrown at her.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 96 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01322/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new two bed dwelling including demolition of existing buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: 21, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The demolition of existing offices/stables and construction of a detached live/work unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Cottage Farm, Michaelston le Pit Road, Michaelston le Pit
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Michaelston-le-Pit

Conservation Area Consent/ Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01357/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new two bed dwelling including demolition of existing buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: 21, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01358/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The demolition of existing offices/stables and construction of a detached live/work unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Cottage Farm, Michaelston le Pit Road, Michaelston le Pit
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Michaelston-le-Pit

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01355/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alteration and refurbishment of Saron Chapel and associated vestry building
Location:/Lleoliad: Saron Chapel, Treoes
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01367/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: To remove the existing brick chimney breast and walls between the kitchen and utility room to create a larger kitchen
Location:/Lleoliad: Great House, Llanmaes
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alteration and refurbishment of Saron Chapel and associated vestry building
Location:/Lleoliad: Saron Chapel, Treoes
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Saron Welsh Congregational Chapel, Treoes, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 96 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00662/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development for 21 dwellings and associated highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the east of Mink Hollow, St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01343/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed office building and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 5 and 6, Sutton Road, Llandow

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:Rhif y cais: 2015/00662/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development for 21 dwellings and associated highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the east of Mink Hollow, St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01421/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed replacement farm house
Location:/Lleoliad: South of B4265 and South West of Seaview, St. Athan

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 96 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00662/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development for 21 dwellings and associated highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the east of Mink Hollow, St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01293/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Rural Enterprise Dwelling incorporating bed and breakfast accommodation and the change of use of land to enable siting of two shepherds huts as associated accommodation
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St. Brides Major

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The demolition of existing offices/stables and construction of a detached live/work unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Cottage Farm, Michaelston le Pit Road, Michaelston le Pit

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Site known as South Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry.

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey South Wales is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of site known as South Quay (Parkside) for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking servicing and landscape.
The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from PAD Design, The Tabacco Factory, Raleigh Road, Bristol. BS3 1TF so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 7 January, 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 7 January 2016 quoting reference 2015/01305/RES.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Site known as South Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Taylor Wimpey South Wales n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Development of site known as South Quay (Parkside) for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking servicing and landscape

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from PAD Design, The Tabacco Factory, Raleigh Road, Bristol. BS3 1TF so long as stocks last.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 7 January, 2016.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 7 January 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/01305/RES

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig 17 December, 2015

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Dinas Golf Club holds ladies drive-in

ON November 24, Dinas Powis Golf Club ladies section held its Ladies' Drive In.

Audrey Harwood was chosen to drive and hit a lovely drive and landed the ball straight on the 18th green. Annie Blackburn's marker was nearest the ball and won a bottle of wine. Well done, ladies.

On November 24, a 9-hole TurkeyTrot 5 Medal was held: first, Lisa Ryley 44 - 7.5 = 36.5 nett; second, Angela Brown 49 - 11 = 38, on back 6 from third. Sian Smith 49 - 11 =38.

On December 1, a 9-hole Turkey Trot 6 Stableford: first, Audrey Harwood 20 pts; second, Annie Blackburn 17pts; third, Ann Mahenthiralingam 15pts on countback from Carol Reeves.

On December 3, a 9-hole Mulled Wine was held: first, Lisa Ryley 19pts; second, Angela Brown 17pts; third, Annie Blackburn 16pts on countback from Sue Bridle, Sian Smith and Vicki Ellison. Visitor's prize was Sandra Martin from Newport Golf Club, 17pts. Longest drive was Vicki Ellison. After playing golf, the ladies enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

On December 8, a Texas Scramble: first, Lisa Ryley, Vicki Ryley, Chris Nelms 32.4; second, Maxine Hird, Sian Smith, Pat Gibbs 33.2; third, Ann Mahenthiralingam, Sally Livesy Davies, Rhian Thomas 34.

RY

Bowling club members in festive mood

OVER 40 members and guests of Barry Central Bowling club enjoyed their traditional Christmas dinner at the Cwm Ciddy carvery on Friday, December 11.

The party was joined by club president Mr S Smith and Mrs Smith. During the evening, a very successful free raffle was carried out with prizes being won by a number of guests and members.

The next social event will be the Christmas coffee morning on Saturday, December 19 starting at 10.30am. A warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to visit the bowling club in Gladstone Road, Barry and enjoy coffee and a mince pie.

The club is currently recruiting new members – men, women and young people – who wish to learn to play. We have free coaching courses throughout April and May.

Contact Mrs J Morgan, 01446 412976, or Mr J Wathes on 01446 719442.

JRW

AM tells of 'full and open discussion' at Mosque

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, is pictured above, during a visit to the Barry Mosque with local councillor Pam Drake, to "bring a message of friendship and support to the Muslim community".

She said that she told members of the mosque how proud she was to represent them in the National Assembly.

"There was a full and open discussion about needs, experiences and understanding about the message of peace the Islamic faith brings," she commented. "It was agreed that education was vital to develop mutual understanding and to overcome misunderstandings, ignorance and prejudice.

"It was a great privilege to visit the mosque and to meet the members who live in the Vale with their families, providing a major contribution to our businesses and the community," the AM added.

Llantwit school's ambassadors brave the cold on site

ON December 11, the Llantwit Major Comprehensive School Construction Ambassadors donned their PPE to experience their first official visit on to the construction site.

The tour began with some background information on Bouygues, a brief on health and safety and a computer update of the site by the community engagement officer.

The ambassadors then braved the cold and the mud to experience life on a construction site.

A school spokeswoman said: "The foundations of the new section of the school are well under way across the whole of the construction site. Where the foundations are complete on the northern end of the site, work has started on the structural steel frame of the three-storey main building.

"There were a lot of interesting questions asked by the pupils and they all agreed it was a worthwhile first visit."

Santa's travelling around Cowbridge

SANTA and his sleigh have become a popular sight around Cowbridge, with his trusty helpers from local Rotaries.

Despite the often unhelpful wet weather, the sleigh did the rounds through the streets of Cowbridge on many evenings, with Santa welcoming children of all ages for a pre-Christmas check to see if they had been good this year and what sort of presents they were hoping to get as a result.

Accompanied by his elves, Santa also visited the villages of Aberthin and Ystradowen to remind his followers that he hadn't forgotten them either.

People were very generous with their giving – some £2,000 was raised, and every penny of this will go to good causes locally, nationally or internationally.

If you've been following Cowbridge Rotary on Twitter or Facebook, you'll see what we've been doing. The last visit by our Cowbridge Santa was outside Cafè Nero on Saturday, where, snug in his little tent, he continued the very necessary pre-Christmas consultations to make sure everybody got what they wanted and, more importantly, what they deserved!

AB

Llancarfan chat

A COFFEE and chat meeting with local officers will be held on Tuesday, December 22 in the Fox and Hounds, Llancarfan, at 11am.

Blacksmiths' quiz team gift for charity

RECENTLY, the regulars of the Wednesday quiz night at the Blacksmiths' Arms presented a cheque for £300 to the Ed Evans Foundation for brain tumour research.

Mrs Sue Evans is pictured receiving the cheque on behalf of the charity from Mrs Trish Emery.

READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Thank you from Cowbridge in Bloom'

THE Cowbridge in Bloom committee wish to give a huge thank you to the traders who supported us in providing the floral displays along the town's main streets and the river bank.

Thanks too, to the individuals who made donations; without these contributions, we could not arrange for these displays, which we think enhance the appearance of the town and add to the attraction for visitors to Cowbridge.

We also thank the small band of volunteers who operate the water bowser twice a week throughout the summer – you are so important to the whole programme.

Next year is our 25th anniversary as well as an important royal occasion, so we are planning an extra effort with special displays. To make this possible, we look forward to everyone's continued support both financially and physically.

Anyone wishing to offer additional support can contact me on 01446 774813

Thanks again to everyone concerned.

Don Bell, Treasurer, Cowbridge in Bloom

Post office welcome

I WOULD like to express my thanks, through your letters page, to our local Assembly Member Jane Hutt. I have been in touch with Jane about the closure of the post office in Cowbridge since the last one closed, and I know she has worked hard to find a solution to the this issue.

So I was very pleased to see that a new post office has opened this week on Eastgate in Cowbridge. No more trips to St Athan or Llantwit Major every time I need to post a parcel!

This also brings a much-needed convenience store to this end of the town, meaning once more that we can nip out for a pint of milk locally.

Now I hope the AM can work equally hard with local people to try to find a solution as to why so many of our local businesses are being forced to close.

Linda Bailey, Cowbridge.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(CLIVE ROAD, BARRY ISLAND (PART)) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2016

1. On 17th December 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Clive Road, Barry Island (Part)) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Clive Road, Barry Island from its junction with the access road that leads into Barry island car park at grid 311262 166786 and continuing in a northeastely direction for a distance of approximately 50m.
Reason	To allow junction improvement works to take place.
Duration	From 8.00am on Monday 4th January 2016 for a maximum period of 18 Months. It is anticipated that the works will be concluded by 24th March 2016 (weather permitting).
Alt Route	Diversions for traffic will be available via Plymouth Road, Archer Road, and along the remaining open section of Clive Road.
NB:	Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 17th day of December 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (CLIVE ROAD, YNYS Y BARRI (RHAN YN UNIG))

1. Ar 17 Rhagfyr 2015, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Orchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel "Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (Clive Road, Ynys Y Barri (Rhan yn Unig)" 2015.

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y fan a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad	Clive Road, Ynys Y Barri, o'r gyffordd â'r ffordd fynediad sy'n arwain i faes parcio Ynys Y Barri wrth gyfeirnod grid 311262 166786 am ryw 50m i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.
Rheswm	Gwella'r gyffordd.
Cyfnod	O 8.00am ar ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2016, am 18 mis yn unig. Rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau erbyn 24 Mawrth 2016 (os ceir tywydd braf).
Llwybr arall	Bydd y traffig yn cael ei ddargyfeirio ar hyd Plymouth Road, Archer Road a'r rhan o Clive Road sy'n dal ar agor.
DS:	Bydd mynediad i gerddwyr ar hyd yr amser.

Dyddiedig 17 Rhagfyr 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

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Advertisers please note: deadline for Classified Section is 5pm Monday (to appear in the following week's edition). Telephone 01446 774484. email: samantha.miller@tindlenews.co.uk

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Public Notices

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales

Deddf Bywyd Gwyllt a Chefn Gwlad 1981 (fel y'i diwygiwyd)

Hysbysu Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig o dan Adran 28 (1)

Rhoddir rhybudd trwy hyn bod Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru a enwir yn Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn ystyried Fferm Walters yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig (SoDdGA).

Y mae'r safle hwn i'r Gorllewin o Y Barri, yn syth i'r Gogledd o Croes Weycock ac i'r Gogledd-orllewin o'r A4226 yn Awdurdod Unedol Bro Morgannwg.

Mae'n ymestyn dros arwynebedd o 24.87 hectar. Canolir y safle ar Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol ST 099688.

Mae'r safle o ddiddordeb arbennig oherwydd ei glaswelltir helaeth, niwtral, llawn rhywogaethau.

O dan yr hysbysiad hwn mae'n ofynnol i bob perchennog a deiliaid hysbysu'r CNC am rai gweithrediadau arbennig a allai amharu ar ddiddordeb arbennig y safle. Gall methu â gwneud hynny fod yn gyfystyr â throsedd.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn rhoi unrhyw hawliau mynediad i SoDdGA Fferm Walters

Gall unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn y tir wneud sylwadau ynghylch yr hysbysiad yn ysgrifenedig at CNC yn y cyfeiriad isod erbyn 14 Mawrth 2016.

Gellir cael manylion llawn am yr hysbysiad gan gynnwys map, disgrifiad o'r safle a rhestr o weithrediadau a allai fod yn niweidiol a datganiad o farn CNC am reoli'r tir oddi wrth:

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, Plas yr Afon, Parc Busnes Llaneirwg, Caerdydd, CF3 0EY

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Notification of a Site Of Special Scientific Interest under Section 28 (1)

Notice is hereby given that the Natural Resource Body for Wales otherwise known as Natural Resources Wales considers Fferm Walters to be a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The site is located West of Barry, North of Waycock Cross and to the NW of the A4226 in the Unitary Authority of the Vale of Glamorgan.

It covers an area of 24.87 hectares, centred on National Grid Reference ST 099688.

The site is of special interest for its exceptionally large area of species-rich neutral grassland.

Under this notification there is a requirement on all owners and occupiers to notify NRW of certain operations which may damage the special interest of the site. Failure to do so may constitute an offence.

This notification does not confer any rights of access to Fferm Walters SSSI

Any person with an interest in the land may make representations regarding the notification in writing to NRW at the address below by 14 March 2016.

Full details of the notification including a map, site description and list of potentially damaging operations and a statement on NRW's views about the management of the land can be obtained from:

Natural Resources Wales, Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, Cardiff, CF3 0EY

Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Powerfreight Ltd of **81 Sky Peals Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9NE is applying to change an existing licence as follows:**
• To keep an extra **2** goods vehicles and **2** trailers at the operating centre at **Unit 55, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge, CF71 7PF.** Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Anyone believing they have a claim against the estate of the late **DAVID SMITH of 12 Clos Y Wiwer, Llantwit Major, CF61 2SG** contact executors at Jordans Solicitors Birmingham **0121 585 3900,** or the address above. **Deadline 8 weeks & 1 day from notice.**

Lost & Found

FOUND
A pair of pink glasses in gold case, around two weeks ago in Cowbridge park
01446 775985

Property

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Recruitment

Awelon Healthcare
near Llantwit Major requires
Support Workers
- Full & part time available
- Sleep-ins & waking nights required
- Full training provided

Contact Jo or Naina on 01446 793544

A vacancy has become available for a
Receptionist
(Full/part time)
to work in a busy, friendly office at **The Glamorgan GEM** based in Cowbridge.
Please email Jan Irving at **jan.irving@tindlenews.co.uk** with a covering letter and CV. **Closing date December 31st.**

Birthdays

Rebecca Gill
Congratulations on your 18th Birthday on December 19, 2015
All our love, Nannie & Herbie Xxx

Articles For Sale

FOR SALE
Approx 100 tonnes of hand picked blue pennant random walling stone.
Large quantity of various types, various sizes of salvaged timber.
Contact: 07913 257361 50/51

Pride C15KD Riser Recliner, beige - £70. Days 240L Tri walking aid with brakes plus bag - £20.
Tel: 07896 983013 50

Bunk Bed
Sleeps 3, as new - £100
T 029 20 530115
(Buyer collects) 50

For sale
LCD PC monitor, 17" (4:3 ratio). As new, £15.
01446 775810. 50

2 Wardrobes
White, each 40" x 24" x 72" high. Double doors, could be disassembled /reassembled. Good condition - **£50 for the 2.**
Cash only sale, buyer to collect.
02920 514564
(Dinas Powys) 50

Sharp TV
32" Flat Screen. Good working order £40
01446 773210 51/01

B+O Music Center
Beocenter 2200 33/45 turntable, cassette player, radio, recording facility, separate speakers, full working order. **£350 cash sale.**
(Buyer to collect)
02920 514564 50

Three Piece Suite
Very good condition, top quality. £250 ono.
(Buyer Collect)
01446 773166 51

Three Wheeler Walker
with basket, tray & brakes. Bought £70 will sell for £40 ono. Only used once in the house.
01446 720536 51

Motors For Sale

Invamed Sovereign Scooter
Excellent condition. Many adjustable features. Spacious seating. Head/rear lights, side mirror horn.
£350
01446 794358 49

Renault Megane Scenic
2003 Diesel. New MOT.
£600 ono
01446 405229
for further details 49

Family Notices

Chamberlain
Paul Anthony

Suddenly, on December 8, Paul of Rhoose, a dearly loved father and grampi.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, December 29, service and cremation 11am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.
Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Seasons Greetings

Eileen & Tony Bennett & Ruby of Llantwit Major would like to wish all their friends in the Vale a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2016.

Elizabeth Hiscock, Sandra & Keith
Would like to wish all our family, friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year with huge thanks to all who have visited and sent regards to mum during her long hospital stay.
Never forgetting our dear 'Polly', we will be making a charitable donation in her memory.
Lots of Love xxx

Sue & Rob Thomas
would like to wish all their dear friends and relations a most blessed and joyous Xmas-tide. May 2016 bring both happiness and good health to all xxx
Once again, this year we are donating to the RNLI and Ty Hafan, in lieu of christmas cards.

Barbara & John Marsh
would like to wish all their friends & neighbours
Christmas Greetings & a Happy New Year.
In lieu of cards, we are sending donations to the Dog's Home.

JOHN & MARY BACON
WOULD LIKE TO WISH THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HALL
Norma

Peacefully on December 11 at the University Hospital of Wales – Norma, well known for her time as a hospital chaplain at Barry Hospital & UHW, Cardiff. Also a member of All Saints Church Choir. Devoted wife to Mike, much loved mum of Sophie, Scott, James and her faithful dog UGO. Loving mamgu to Isaac, Jonathan, Emma and Thomas. Step mum of Nicola and Michaela.
She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.
Norma is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday, December 31 at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only – donations if desired may be made via Norma's online tribute page, www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, to support Dogs For Good charity. Further enquiries to Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962

STIMPSON
Lee

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Lee on December 11 following his long illness, borne with great dignity, at the age of 42 years.
A much loved son, brother and nephew who will be greatly missed.
Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, December 29 at 2pm. Floral tributes may be sent to the Funeral Home.

BOARD
John Allan
28.2.1928 – 12.12.2015

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, John of Penmark. Beloved husband for 66 years of Mary, devoted dad of Colin, Clive and Sheila, respected father-in-law of Jenny, Jane and Phillip, adored Bampy John of all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, December 22, service and cremation 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

RAW
Leonard

Peacefully on December 11 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Len of Rhoose. Beloved husband of the late Jieannie, nee Griffiths, dearly loved father of Jacqui, father-in-law of Brian, much loved grandfather of David and Kerensa and great-grandfather of Holly and Rowan.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, December 22, service and cremation 10am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Stroke Association c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

JACQUES
Philip

The family of the late Phil wish to thank all friends and acquaintances for the overwhelming amount of cards, flowers and donations received in his memory and for attending his funeral in such high numbers.
Special thanks to Mark B. for his humorous memories of Phil over the years and to Duncan Ballantyne and the staff at A.G. Adams & Son.

SMITH
Graham Edward Bentley

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on December 6th, Graham of Atlantic Place, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Brenda, devoted father of Karen, loved brother of Austin, loving uncle to all his nieces and nephew.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, December 22nd at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

SUGDEN
Michael James (Jim)

Suddenly at Great Western Hospital Swindon on December 5, Jim aged 73 years. Beloved husband of Sue, much loved dad of Jayne and Gavin, son-in-law Gareth and daughter-in-law Dawn. Adored gramp to Danielle, Perry, Melissa, Jamie and Thomas.
Jim will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service in the chapel of rest on Monday, December 21 at 3pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for British Heart Foundation or The Stroke Association c/o the Funeral Director.
At Jim's request please, no black ties.

HILL
Arthur Reynolds

Peacefully in his sleep at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on December 9th, Arthur of Cae Glas, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of the late Doreen, much loved dad of Lynda, Judith and Roger.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Wednesday, December 23 at 4pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 5pm.
Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Ty Hafan, The Children's Hospice in Wales, Appeals Office, Hayes Road, Sully, CF64 5XX.

The GEM
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BIRD
Eric Osbourne
23rd December 2014
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Always in our thoughts, with much love.

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In Memory

HISCOCK
Jennifer Mary

Our 10th Christmas without you.
As we prepare for Christmas,
our thoughts will be of you,
You always made our Christmases
the happiest we ever knew.
We'll try our best to celebrate
the birth of Christ the King.
But in our hearts we realise
we've lost our everything.
Love from your husband Phil. Xxx

Birthday Memories

BIRTHDAY MEMORIES
Jamie Adamson
(25.12.1998 - 20.01.2004)

"Another year has been and gone since you passed away,
But in our hearts and memories you will always stay,
We miss your love and laughter and how we used to play,
So Happy Birthday darling for this coming Christmas Day."
Love always, Daddy, Sam, Denise and family *xxxx*

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thinking of all the children and staff in hospital over the Christmas period. Thanks to everyone who has supported Jamie's charity (jamfund.co.uk) during the past year.

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In black, 33,000 miles, very nice example
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09 HONDA CRV 2.2 Diesel Automatic
In met silver, 20,000 miles, 4x4, full leather
£15,995

12 RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc
In Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance
£4,695

64 MG3 Style 1.5 VTi 5-Dr
In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc
£7,495

07 TOYOTA Corolla Verso SR D-4D 2.2cc
In silver, 51,000 miles, 1 owner, 7 seater
£4,995

62 **HONDA CRV 2.2 Diesel Automatic** In met silver, 20,000 miles, 4x4, full leather £15,995
62 **AUDI A4 2 Litre Diesel Technik 6 Speed** in red with black leather, 64,000 miles, 1 owner .. REDUCED BY £1000 TO £12,995
54 **VW Transporter 2.5 (130) TDI L/W/B** In silver, too many options to list £11,995
62 **PEUGEOT 308CC 1.6HDi Active** In met-blue, 22,000 mile diesel convertible £9,995
62 **VW Golf 1.6 TDi Match 5-Dr** In white, 41,000 mile diesel hatch £9,995
59 **MERCEDES C180 SE Blue Efficiency Automatic** In met-grey, 35,000 miles.....£9,995
03 **PORSCHE Cayenne 4.5 V8 Tiptronic 'S'** In silver, full black leather, 69,000 miles, 22" alloys, colour coded s/roof sat-nav etc £9,995
61 **NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acenta** In black, 33,000 miles, very nice example £9,495
65 **PEUGEOT 108 Active 5-Dr** In white, delivery mileage .....REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,995
62 **VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr** In red, 20,000 miles, 1 owner, superb throughout.....£7,995
62 **CITROEN D53 1.6 Style Plus 3-Dr** In white with black roof, 33,000 miles, 1 owner £7,995
62 **FIAT Diablo 1.6 Multi Jet Diesel Eleganza** In met grey, 41,000 miles, 1 owner example £7,995
61 **SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel Scout Crios Estate** In met grey, 23,000 miles.....£7,995
11 **PEUGEOT 3008 Exclusive 1.6 HDi** In met bronze, 52,000 mile diesel at £7,995
64 **MG3 3 Style 1.5 VTi 5-Dr** In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc £7,495
62 **SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr** In black, 16,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec.....£7,495
12 **SKODA Roomster 1.6 TDi SE Plus** In black, 39,000 miles, 1 owner £7,495
12 **FORD Fiesta Titanium TDCi 70 1.4cc** In silver, 36,000 miles, alloys, bluetooth.....£7,495
62 **PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active, 3-Dr** metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance £6,995
62 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-Dr** In verde lime, 22,000 miles, 1 owner .....REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995
12 **TOYOTA Yaris TR VVTi 5-Dr 1.3cc** 24,000 miles, met blue, sat nav, bluetooth, alloys £6,995
11 **SKODA Octavia 1.4 TSi SE Plus 5-Dr** In met-grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner with sat-nav £6,995
10 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5-Dr** In silver, 48,000 miles, low running costs £6,995
59 **VW Golf Plus 1.4 TSi SE** In silver, 50,000 miles, host of extras, superb example £6,995
09 **MERCEDES B180 Sport Diesel 2.0 CDi** In black, 76,000 miles .....REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995
55 **AUDI A8 3.2 FSi (L.W.B.) SE Auto** In black, with black leather, 85,000 miles, superb at.....£6,995
61 **VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 Exclusive** In silverlake, 43,000 miles, 1 owner £6,795
14 **HYUNDAI i20 1.2 Active 3-Dr** In black, 18,000 miles, 1 owner, makers warranty £6,495
13 **MAZDA 2 TS 1.3TS 5-Dr** In red, 17,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax £6,495
13 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-Dr** In gunmetal grey, 16,000 miles, 1 owner £6,495
61 **SUZUKI SX4 1.6 SZ4** In met-copper, 16,000 miles, very nice throughout £6,495
10 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 SE Turbo 5-Dr** In silver, 55,000 miles, nice example £6,495
14 **PEUGEOT 107 (998cc) Allure 5-Dr** In met silver, 17,000 miles.....£5,995
12 **SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 4-Dr** In silver, 24,000 miles, very nice example at £5,995
61 **SKODA Fabia 1.2 TDi Greenlink 5-Dr** In red, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, "Free road tax" £5,995
61 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Tom-Tom 5-Dr** In steel blue, 41,000 miles.....£5,995
61 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 5-Dr** In silver, 26,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c .....REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995
59 **SEAT Leon Ecomotive 1.9 TDi 'S'** In black, 71,000 miles, £30 road tax.....£5,995
60 **SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel SE 5-Dr** In silver, 56,000 miles, low running costs.....£5,695
08 **FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Ghia Automatic** In silver, 69,000 miles, diesel hatch £5,695

63 **FIAT Punto 1.2 Pop 5-Dr** In white, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, ...REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,495
11 **HYUNDAI i20 1.4 Comfort 5-Dr** In met-grey, 23,000 miles, 1 owner £5,495
09 **FORD C-Max Zetec 2.0 TDi** In met-blue, 69,000 miles, ideal family car at ....REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495
58 **MINI ONE 1.4 (6-Speed)** In pepper white, 70,000 miles with pan-roof, pepper pack etc.....£5,495
59 **HONDA Jazz 1.4 V-Tec Ex** In electric blue, sought after model with panoramic roof £5,295
62 **KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr** In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road-tax £4,995
62 **HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 5-Dr** In silver, 13,000 miles, £20 road tax.....£4,995
62 **HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 5-Dr** In met-grey, 19,000 miles, low running costs.....£4,995
10 **SKODA Fabia 1.4 TDi Estate** In silver, 50,000 miles, low running costs REDUCED BY £1000 TO £4,995
10 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3-Dr** In electric blue, 51,000 miles with a/c £4,995
59 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr** In black, 52,000 miles with alloys a/c etc ..REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
59 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr** In electric blue, only 27,000 miles from new..... REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
09 **TOYOTA IQ Auto VVTi 1.0cc** In white, red leather suede trim, loads of extras.....£4,995
58 **VW Polo 1.4 TDi 5-Dr Match** In silver, 38,000 miles, low running costs £4,995
08 **HYUNDAI i30 Premium 2.0 CRDi Diesel 5-Dr** In silver with leather, 41,000 miles.....£4,995
07 **TOYOTA Corolla Verso SR D-4D 2.2cc** In silver, 51,000 miles, 1 owner, 7 seater £4,995
60 **SMART Fortwo 1.0 Pulse Automatic** In met-black, 24,000 miles with a/c etc £4,795
58 **MAZDA 6 TS2 Diesel 2.0 5-Dr** In met-black, 74,000 mile family hatch £4,795
13 **CITREON C1, VT 3 door** sky blue, 18,000 miles, one owner £4,695
12 **RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc** Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance £4,695
60 **FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec** In silver, 50,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc £4,495
62 **CHEVROLET Spark 1.2 Spark** In black, 41,000 miles, £30 road tax £4,295
10 **TOYOTA IQ 1.0 VVTi** In crystal white, 54,000 miles with Ipod connection, a/c etc £4,295
59 **SMART Fortwo Passion Auto** In red/silver, 21,000 miles, glass roof etc £4,295
59 **NISSAN Note 1.4 Accenta** In black, 68,000 miles, economical hatch £4,295
07 **FORD Fusion 1.6 Automatic Zetec** In glacier blue, 33,000 miles with a/c £3,995
55 **FORD Galaxy Ghia 1.9 TDDi** In silver, 87,000 miles, 7 seater, privacy glass, p/s £3,995
58 **MITSUBISHI Colt CZ2 Convertible 1.5cc** In silver, 57,000, silver, p/s £3,495
07 **NISSAN Micra 1.2 Spirata 5-Dr** In silver, only 38,000 miles with a/c etc £3,495
04 **HONDA CRV Executive 2.0 Automatic** In met-blue with leather trim, nice example £3,495
07 **NISSAN Micra 1.6 Sport Convertable** In met wine, 59,000 miles, 1 owner £3,295
57 **SEAT Ibiza 1.2 Reference 5-Dr** In met grey 53,000 miles, low insurance .....REDUCED BY £1000 TO £2,995
07 **FIAT Panda Dynamic Diesel** in silver, 66,000 miles, fantastic mpg. Low road tax and insurance....£2,995
05 **FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-Dr** In glacier blue, 52,000 miles, very nice exmaple at £2,995
56 **SMART City Passion Automatic** In met blue, 38,000 miles with a/c, c/d etc £2,795

62 CITROEN DS3 1.6 Style Plus 3-Dr
In white with black roof, 33,000 miles, 1 owner
£7,995

62 VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr
In red, 20,000 miles, 1 owner, superb throughout
£7,995

09 TOYOTA IQ Auto VVTi 1.0cc
In white, red leather, suede trim, loads of extras
£4,995

62 KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr
In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road tax
£4,995

59 HONDA Jazz 1.4 V-Tec Ex
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Battling under-9s earn draw in local derby!

ON a muddy Sunday morning, Barry RFC under-9s played their annual Santa match against their parents. Great fun was had by all, and the end result was a very diplomatic 7-7 draw.

'Blast from the Past' – 1997

How the 'experts' and Racing Post were put right!

by BRIAN LEE

BACK in 1997 – and if the Racing Post and all the television racing scribes and turf historians were to believed – *Stately Home*, trained by Haverfordwest's Peter Bowen had become the first horse in the 20th century to achieve 10 chase wins in a season and was awarded the Channel 4 Racing Trophy.

However, I knew differently and phoned Chepstow trainer Milton Bradley as I was sure that his *Grey Dolphin* had won 10 chases during the 1978/79 season. Milton, after giving it some thought, was able to confirm that I was right and in fact his *Grey Dolphin* had won 10 chases during that season as I had said.

I faxed my findings to the Racing Post to inform them that all the racing journalists had forgotten that Milton Bradley's *Grey Dolphin* had also won 10 handicap chases in a season.

A few days later, I received a phone call from the Racing Post's statistician John Randall telling me that I was correct and that he would do justice to *Grey Dolphin* by writing an article in the Racing Post, listing the horse's achievements along with that of Bradley's *Mighty Marine*, which I had also mentioned in the fax that I had sent to the Racing Post.

However, imagine how I felt when I read in the 1996/1997 Timeform Chasers & Hurdlers Annual, recognised as the National Hunt 'bible', that the Racing Post's John Randall was given the credit of 'reminding racing journalists of their short memories'!

For the record, during the 1970s, Milton Bradley's other prolific winner *Mighty Marine* won 24 races and won seven consecutive races in the space of five weeks and three days.

'BRIDGEND BUTCHER BRINGS HOME THE BACON'

Bridgend butcher Jonathon Tudor came in for a spare ride at the Golden Valley Hunt Steeplechases at Bredwardine and brought home the bacon when landing the restricted open race on 12-1 chance *Ollardale*.

Ollardale, who had been pulled up on its two previous starts this season, finished 12 lengths ahead of *Derring Ann* ridden by west Wales' Dai Jones.

Julian Pritchard, who looks like clinching the national men's point-to-point championship, brought his season's tally of wins to 34 with a treble on *Lets Twist Again* (confined), *Nether Gobions* (men's open) and *Robero* (maiden division one).

Nether Gobion came home 12 lengths clear of the Llangibby horse *Archer* with the Llangeinor mare *Doubting Donna*, under reigning champion Jamie Jukes, a futher 16 lengths away in third place.

Rip Van Winkle, confidently ridden by leading rider Alison Dare, made it four wins in a row in the ladies' open race when accounting for *Bowland Girl* and *Howaryadoon*.

Pip Jones' mount *Most Interesting* was pulled up. *Merger Man*, a five year old described by the experts as having 'no sign of ability' and ridden by David Mansell, was a 14-1 winner of the seond division of the maiden.

Sea Tarth, who ran in four point-to-points for Pembrokeshire's Fred Luff last season, and who failed to complete the course on each occasion was a 33-1 winner of the bumper (National Hunt flat race) at Bangor-on-Dee for Pembrokeshire trainer Peter Bowen.

You can e-mail your news, views or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920736438

Another Chepstow win for Janet

THE Vale's Mrs Janet Davies had another winner at Chepstow Racecourse when her four-year-old bay gelding *Positively Dylan* landed the closing bumper (National Hunt flat race).

Trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, newcomer *Positively Dylan* ran on well under Lewis Gordon in the closing stages to score by two-and-a-half lengths from *Pride of Lecale*.

At the previous November Chepstow fixture, Mrs Davies saw her *Maxanisi*, also trained by Evan Williams, win a novices' hurdle race.

BRIAN LEE

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www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Bridge news from Barrivale

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club for December 8 are as follows:

First, Mark Roderick and Mick Green, 63.10 per cent; second, Denis Mottram and Peter Millar, 63.02 per cent; third, Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas, 59.38 per cent.

Reg Dyer and Ken Hannah won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. Telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

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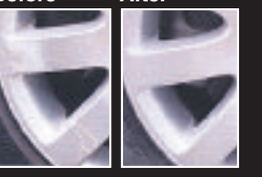

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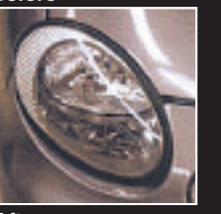

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Winning golfers Julian Golunski, Dan Jarvis, Neil McLean with society captain Brian Jones.

Dan the man at RAF St Athan

EXTREMELY wet conditions underfoot proved an unwelcome experience to the 32 members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society who assembled at RAF St Athan Golf Club last Thursday for their Christmas meeting.

Thankfully the condition of the greens which many found difficult in locating were up to their usual high standard, enabling just a few to return respectable scores.

Dan Jarvis with 32 stableford points finished in first place to collect the RAF St Athan trophy together with seasonal prizes of port, whiskey, wine and a bottle of his favourite Prosecco.

Neil Mclean finished runner-up with 29 points followed by four members who all finished with 27 points. With the better back nine proving the deciding factor, society captain Brian Jones took the last bottle of port, leaving Julian Golunski, Clive Thomas and Tosh Taylor to take home boxes of biscuits or chocolate.

Dai John was rescued from having to undertake his dreaded annual Christmas shopping trip to the Principality when returning home with two tins of seasonal sweets and two bottles of wine when being nearest the pin on two of the four par three holes. Martin David and Keith James were also successful in this category.

Neil McLean hit the longest drive on the selected hole to win the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize and Clive Edwards topped up his drinks cabinet when returning home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky.

Clive correctly guessed 34 balls would fail to return home with unfortunately quite a few lost in the saturated fairways.

Jim Hayes' consistent form was once again recognised when collecting the best endeavour prize, just seeing off the challenge of Dai Llewellyn.

The biggest smile of the day belonged to Aubrey Thomas who collected a large box of chocolates when returning the highest score in the 'over-80s' category, therefore solving his Christmas shopping problem.

John Davies finished runner-up in this category for the 'veteran veterans' followed by Aubrey Bowen and Glyn Watts-Jones.

Mention must be made of the excellent evening meal prepared by caterer Leanne, enjoyed by the competitors, and also special guest John Lee who is now an honorary member of the society.

Thanks also to the members of the society for raising £60 for the Llantwit Major Lifeguards.

Finally society captain Brian Jones and the committee of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society wish golfers throughout the Vale a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

T.McC

THE COTTRELL LADIES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

ON Thursday, December 10, Cottrell Park Ladies celebrated Christmas.

Unfortunately the morning competition was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions, but 66 ladies attended the prize-giving in the beautifully decorated Tyler cabin.

The prizes were presented by the ladies' captain Helen Poole and were awarded to the following: Megan Cullinane, Cup of Achievement; Vicki Long, Lady Golfer of the Year, Par Competition, Summer Eclectic Mac; Helen Poole Birdie Tree, Llanfair Trophy, Summer Eclectic Button; Cath Domican, Dragon Brooch; Kay Bradbury, Macmillan Spoon; Rusty Fone, LGU Breakthrough Cancer Brooch; Judy James, Golf Foundation Brooch; Lorraine Pointon-Bell, Grandmothers Trophy; Liz Overton, Pencarrig Cup; Chris Impey, Super Seventies.

There were 18 Stableford winners with Helen Evans achieving five and 11 Medal winners,with Vicki Long achieving four. Helen thanked Patsie Smith, competition secretary, for her assistance.

Following the prize giving there was entertainment by the committee with Christmas songs, prior to a delicious Christmas lunch enjoyed by all.

Chris Evans was announced as the new vice captain - she thanked Helen Poole for the table presents and for organising the day so well.

Angela Padfield was thanked for the lovely table decorations. Helen thanked everyone for their support and wished them a happy Christmas, this was followed by coffee and carols.

CB

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Up stepped Bruce to slam the ball into the net to cheers from travelling fans...

Oh what fun it is – when Dinas win away!

Penrhiwceiber Rangers 1, Dinas Powys 2
by PETER KING

WITH the majority of fixtures played on grass pitches falling foul of the weather, Dinas travelled to Penrhiwceiber half expecting the referee to call the game off but, despite driving rain and a very heavy pitch, the match went ahead.

The hosts settled first and won an early corner which was cleared and they continued to press for the first 10 minutes, the closest they came to scoring being a good through ball to Neil Evans but he shot wide.

Dinas began to settle and a ball out to Ryan Garland saw him close in on goal but he got underneath his shot which cleared the cross bar by some distance. Good work by Rhys Palmer put Adam Johns in on goal but he was crowded out by the Ceiber defence before he could get a shot away.

On the 15 minute mark Dinas were awarded a free kick just inside the Ceiber half. Nicky Bruce stepped up and hit a superb shot to open the scoring, giving the Ceiber keeper Alex Bailey no chance.

The hosts stepped up their work rate and had Dinas under pressure, forcing two corners which James Curtin, the Dinas keeper dealt with.

The visitors weathered the pressure and a superb through ball from Nathan Donnelly found Rhys Palmer who used his pace to get within striking distance but his effort was just wide of the left upright.

However Ceiber were looking dangerous at times, winning two further corners which the Dinas defence dealt with.

However, on the 32 minute mark Brandon Davies received the ball on the edge of the Dinas area, side-stepped a tackle and hit a superb shot into the top corner of the net for the equaliser.

Dinas were dealt a further blow five minutes before the interval when Mason Ah-Mun pulled up with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Luke Swaffield and the half ended all square at 1-1 with Ceiber shading the possession.

Whatever the Dinas management team of Lee Saunders and Rob Bloxham said in their half-time team talk certainly worked wonders as, apart from the first few minutes of the second half, Dinas got more and more on top, creating numerous scoring opportunities as the pitch began to cut up and their superior fitness began to show.

LINK-UP PLAY

James Marr had the first chance hitting a hard low shot just wide from 30 yards, and it was Marr again who hit the left upright a few minutes later and the Ceiber defence managed to scramble the ball away.

Then good link up play down the left wing and a good ball in to Adam Johns looked promising but he fluffed his shot in the atrocious conditions.

Dinas sensed the win was there for the taking and rang the changes with 20 minutes of the half gone. Tom Edwards replaced Ryan Garland and a few minutes later the hard working Scott Muir made way for Adam Jones.

It was really backs to the wall time for Penrhiwceiber then as they visibly tired, and any time they did manage to play a ball forward, Donnelly and James Bloxham in particular were diving forward to head the ball back into Dinas possession.

Adam Jones soon got into the action for Dinas, squaring a ball to Johns but he was driven wide and his shot from an acute angle was just the wrong side of the right post.

Palmer then looked to have scored when a defender hit a ball against his legs and it rolled towards the goal-line but a defender just managed to hook it away.

With time running out it looked as if a draw was inevitable but, just a minute from time, Johns was chopped down in the box, the referee pointing straight to the penalty spot.

Up stepped Bruce to slam the ball high into the net to a tremendous cheer from the travelling supporters, to give Dinas the win that their recent play has warranted.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Rhys Harlin, 3 Mason Ah-Mun, 4 James Bloxham, 5 Nathan Donnelly, 6 James Marr (c), 7 Ryan Garland, 8 Nicky Bruce (2), 9 Scott Muir, 10 Adam Johns, 11 Rhys Palmer, 12 Tom Edwards, 14 Luke Swaffield, 15 Adam Jones, 16 Keiron James.

Next Saturday, December 19, Croesyceiliog visit the Murch (weather permitting), 2pm kick off.

Cowbridge RFC makes progress in SWALEC Bowl

LAST Saturday Cowbridge hosted Milford Haven in the third round of the prestigious SWALEC Bowl.

The visitors play in West Wales League 3A and had lost just once this season. On a breezy, damp, muddy afternoon, this proved to be one of the best games of the season with both teams giving their all from start to finish.

Cowbridge showed their intent from the off. Cowbridge were solid in the first scrum and spun the ball out to the wing; the attack broke down but from the ensuing maul second row Lewys Hopkins secured the ball and charged over for a fine try after just two minutes.

Milford Haven fought back immediately but were unable to capitalise on a succession of penalties awarded to them. Cowbridge then struck a purple patch of running rugby in poor conditions.

The front row of Dai Popham, Ieuan Griffiths and Ben Worall provided a great platform and second rows Hopkins and Alex Lewis were winning plenty of quality line-out ball.

The backs must have created five or six scoring chances in the next 20 minutes. Ash Thomas and Duncan Evans were both brought down yards from the line, and captain Huw Lougher was inches away after a quick tap penalty by scrum half Richie Howsen. All the while, No. 10 Alec Guard was distributing the ball, but no tries came.

Cowbridge finally added to the score on the 25th minute from the reliable boot of full back Ben Wright. Unfortunately two minutes later flanker Connor Boys was harshly yellow carded and the big visiting pack battered the Cowbridge line and despite some great defence, particularly from back rowers Emyr Stone and Rhod Walker, eventually barged over for an unconverted try.

Cowbridge were on the attack straight from the kick off and from good lineout ball in the 22, some fine passing along the Cowbridge backs resulted in a try in the corner for flying wing Duncan Evans, followed by a tremendous conversion by Ben Wright.

Unfortunately top try scorer Will Williams took a nasty hit just before half-time to be replaced by Chris Roberts-Walters, the score at half-time Cowbridge 15, Milford Haven 5.

The second half started very much like the first with a great chase by Emyr Stone putting Cowbridge on the front foot and a lovely break by wing Evans almost resulted in a try for Rhod Walker.

It was all breathtaking stuff as both teams attacked at every opportunity and the visitors' pack spent much time in the Cowbridge 22 only to be repelled time and time again by the Cowbridge pack that refused to give in.

Connor Boys put in some particularly big hits. However, with minutes to go, Milford Haven were awarded a series of penalties and the pressure finally told as they scored in the corner.

With the Cowbridge faithful holding their breath, the conversion sailed wide. With just a minute to go Milford Haven attacked and one wondered whether Cowbridge would rue missing all those missed opportunities in the first half.

It was not to be for the visitors as Cowbridge stole the ball from the advancing maul and it was all over, the final score Cowbridge 15, Millford Haven 10.

The game was a credit to both sides who gave their all for the full 80 minutes in very difficult conditions with attractive rugby throughout.

Cowbridge deserved the win for creating so many chances with some great running rugby, but it couldn't have been a more nailbiting finish.

Milford Haven stayed for a few hours after and it a pleasure to see both teams and supporters having such a good time together in the clubhouse afterwards.

The youth took on Aberdare on the Police Field, better described as a mudbath. Despite that, both teams attempted to run the ball and Cowbridge missed several opportunities, suffering from a lack of finishing.

Outstanding for Cowbridge were Ben Jones at No.8 and flanker Dan Holder. Unfortunately one of the Aberdare players suffered a nasty knee injury and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The youth have some exciting fixtures coming up. On January 2 they take on St Peters as a curtain raiser for Cardiff v Llanelli at the Arms Park, kick off 12 noon. On January 23 they play Buenos Aires at Llandaff North, more details at a later date.

The first team have their final fixture of 2015 this Saturday, December 19, away at Tonyrefail; this has been moved from December 26; the first game of 2016 will be on January 2 at home against Tylorstown.

RV/RK/GT

Black tie dinner for past captains

BRYNHILL past captains held their gala dinner on Friday, December 11.

The captains and their guests enjoyed an excellent meal by the club caterers, Gareth and Mark Dommett.

The past captains entertained the guests with an impromptu sing song. Many of the guests thought that they should start a choir as their voices sounded so good.

Thanks go to the organiser Mr Tony Cook for all his hard work, which made a very enjoyable evening for everyone.

JK

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Sports under-10s fired up in Llantwit clashes

BRIDGEND Sports under-10s were fired up for Sunday's round robin fixtures against Llantwit Fardre and Llantwit Major.

With one game in the last four weeks, the players and coaches were determined that the weather was not going to frustrate their efforts for a further week.

The omens looked good as the sun made a brief appearance and the Blue and Whites won the toss to start the first game against the fancied Llantwit Fardre side, but it was the Fardre that scored first as the Sports were forced into touch from an early run.

Fardre re-started play quickly to put their players in space, where the lively Steffan Emmanuel sprinted down the touchline from halfway to score.

The Sports did not let the score dampen their enthusiasm.

They soon put together some delightful phases of play, with good rucking combined with some deft off-loading and handling skills that soon paid dividends.

Joel Rogers split the defence with a skilful run into space to score the try that brought the scores level. It was then a case of a focused defensive effort that denied Llantwit Fardre possession with Iestyn John, Joel Rogers and Hari Williams prominent in the tackle area.

Hari Williams was rewarded for his efforts as he supported play, waited for a pass and then spotted a gap in defence to score from six metres out. Cian John secured a three tries to one lead going into half-time for Bridgend Sports when he simply left the away team dead in their tracks following a typical jinking run to the line from 15 metres out.

With Llantwit Fardre starting the game in the second half, the Sports needed to ensure their defensive effort reached the high standard of their attacking prowess in the first half.

They did not disappoint with some solid tackling and effort from Callum Lewis, Cian John, Joel Rogers and Hari Williams. They soon robbed their opponents of possession to set Cian John free again, as he raced in for his second try.

Llantwit Fardre raised their game in response and showed their quality to level the second half score when they worked the ball wide for Lewis Harris to sprint down the wing to score the final try of the game to take the score to 4-2 in Bridgend Sports favour.

Llantwit Major faced the Blue and Whites next; the Red and Blacks could not darken the home team's spirit and ambition to play open, attractive running rugby.

The rugby they produced brought a smile to supporters. It clearly showed the young players are beginning to adapt to the challenge of physical contact game at the ruck and tackle area. The home team scored two tries, one from Joel Rogers and the other from Callum Lewis, before Llantwit Major registered their first try.

The Sports' confidence was growing and it was not long before the two try lead was restored when Mackenzie Dent made a run. He was tackled, butHari Williams cleaned out at the ruck, for Mason Balmer, Dewi Worralll and Tom Chick to combine and take play deep into the Llantwit Major half, before passing to Ieuan Pilliner.

He received the ball 10 metres out, he changed the angle of attack and span out of a tackle to score.

Joel Rogers was next to score, as Dylan Morgan gathered a loose Llantwit Major kick, made a break to set up a ruck Joe Rogers received the ball from the ruck, with plenty to do.

He used his pace and eye for the gap to cut through the defence to score his hat-trick of tries for the morning.

Cian John was not to be outdone and he claimed his third when he received the ball on the halfway line; he set off on a run full of pace before throwing the opposition with a couple of side steps to score.

It was another John, this time Iestyn John, who scored next, following good support and handling skills displayed by Hari Williams, Mason Balmer, Cian John and Dewi Worrall.

Hari Williams popped up again to change the angle before the ball was passed onto Iestyn John to score.

Llantwit Major, to their great credit, halted the Sports' momentum by scoring next, but it was Joel Rogers who had the last say of the half as he claimed his fourth try to give Bridgend Sports a 7-2 lead.

With a healthy lead the Sports entered the final period with the same level of determination that they started the day with. Llantwit Major attacked from the start but the Sports snuffed out each attack through solid tackling and counter rucking.

From one ruck, the ball was worked to Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins who showed good skill when he took the ball into a ruck and placed it well for fellow players to gather and move it quickly to Joel Rogers who sprinted in to score.

Hari Williams claimed his second try before the final score of the day saw Ben King take the ball five metres from his own line and run the length of the field, breaking several tackles to secure the overall 10 points to two win for the Sports.

In the final game of the morning it was Fardre that over powered the Major with a six points to nil win to conclude an excellent morning of rugby.

SP

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WALES TO PLAY ENGLAND, SLOVAKIA AND RUSSIA AT EURO 2016, BUT...

Let's not get distracted by this 'battle of Britain!

THERE was something almost fateful as Wales found themselves drawn in Group B of the 2016 European Championships with Roy Hodgson's England.

With England a top seed and Chris Coleman's men, along with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, in the bottom seeds, a 'battle of Britain' seemed a certainty, but the draw which pitted the dragon against the three lions had an almost predictable air about it.

With Slovakia and Russia making up the other half of the group, focus almost immediately went on the home nations, something that both managers were keen to play down, sensibly so as the tournament is far more than just one game against the rivals from across the Severn Bridge.

It's a kind group for Wales, one that could have been better, could have been worse, but one that is certainly eminently qualifiable from, with the four best third-placed teams reaching the knock-out stages along with the top two from each group.

A top two finish isn't beyond the means of a confident and talented Welsh team who proved in qualifying that they are match for any side, notably taking four points from the two games against FIFA's best team in the world, Belgium.

While both Russia and Slovakia will testing opposition, they are certainly beatable, but the big test will come from an England side who - whisper it quietly - have shown the potential to be one of the teams of the tournament.

While neither side will be sidetracked by media hype, there's no doubt that this game will have a extra edge to it - but it will be a mark of how far Coleman's team have come to see how they fare against our neighbours.

One thing's for sure - it's going to be a thrill ride of a tournament!

GARETH JAMIESON

CLOSE GAME FOR SCHOOL AT NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Year 11 netball team.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive year-11 netball played in a county tournament against St Teilo's and Cardiff High.

Against St Teilo's, a very fast and dynamic game displayed Cowbridge's ability to move the ball effortlessly from one end of the court to the other.

Excellent long passes from Selina to Annabelle in the attacking third put St Teilo's under pressure. Excellent and consistent shooting by Annabelle increased the lead to 7-0 by half-time. Brilliant defensive work by Hannah, Sophie and Selina kept St Teilo's out, preventing them from scoring in the first half.

The second half saw Cowbridge extend their lead through quick passing and many interceptions. The final whistle blew with the score 18-1 to Cowbridge.

Cardiff High were the next opponents and the girls were anticipating a tough game. Cardiff applied pressure from the start and took an early lead. Cowbridge fought back and narrowed Cardiff's lead.

It was a highly intense goal-for-goal match, with both teams taking their opportunities to capitalise on any chances. The final score was 10-9 to Cardiff High.

Players: Emily Forest, Selina Radcliffe, Nia Davies, Sophie Oddy, Hannah Slone, Amy Williams, Carys Barwell and Robyn Edwards.

Girls' team plays at Cardiff City

COWBRIDGE girl's football team were invited to play in Cardiff City's Football League 2015 Cup.

The under-13 girls' tournament took place on November 26 at the House of Sport in Cardiff. Cowbridge played a total of five games against a variety of schools from all over Wales.

It was the girls' first football tournament and they all enjoyed the experience. Unfortunately they did not win any of their games but they progressed significantly throughout the tournament, getting stronger and stronger as the day went on. Excellent team work and effort from all made it a very enjoyable and successful day.

Players: Kate Floyd, Mollie Rowland, Elin May, Lily Buick, Gemma Chester, Phoebe Hogg, and Abigail Wilson-Wood.

The girls football team.

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www.cowbridge-today.co.uk

Cowbridge Darts league season reaches half way

ON Tuesday December 8, a full programme of league matches was played bringing the league fixtures to the half-way point.

With Llanharry only winning 7-2 against the Edmondes C, the Edmondes B by beating the Farmers Arms 8-1 increased their top slot advantage.

The Highwayman Inn defeated the Old Post Ladies 8-1 and the Edmondes A beat the Farmers B (H&H) 7-2. The Six Bells Inn did not have a game.

Present league standings, all the teams having played nine games, are: Edmondes B (50 points), Llanharry (47), Highwayman Inn (45), Edmondes A (40), Edmondes C (36), Six Bells Inn (34), Farmers Arms (33), Farmers B (H&H) (27) and Old Post Ladies (12).

The darts now takes a Christmas break returning on Tuesday, January 5, when the semi-finals and final of the GWC will be played.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

PJT